$2.50
AUST AND BRITISH SOCCER W
FOR
611313500003 170298 12

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN SOCC

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

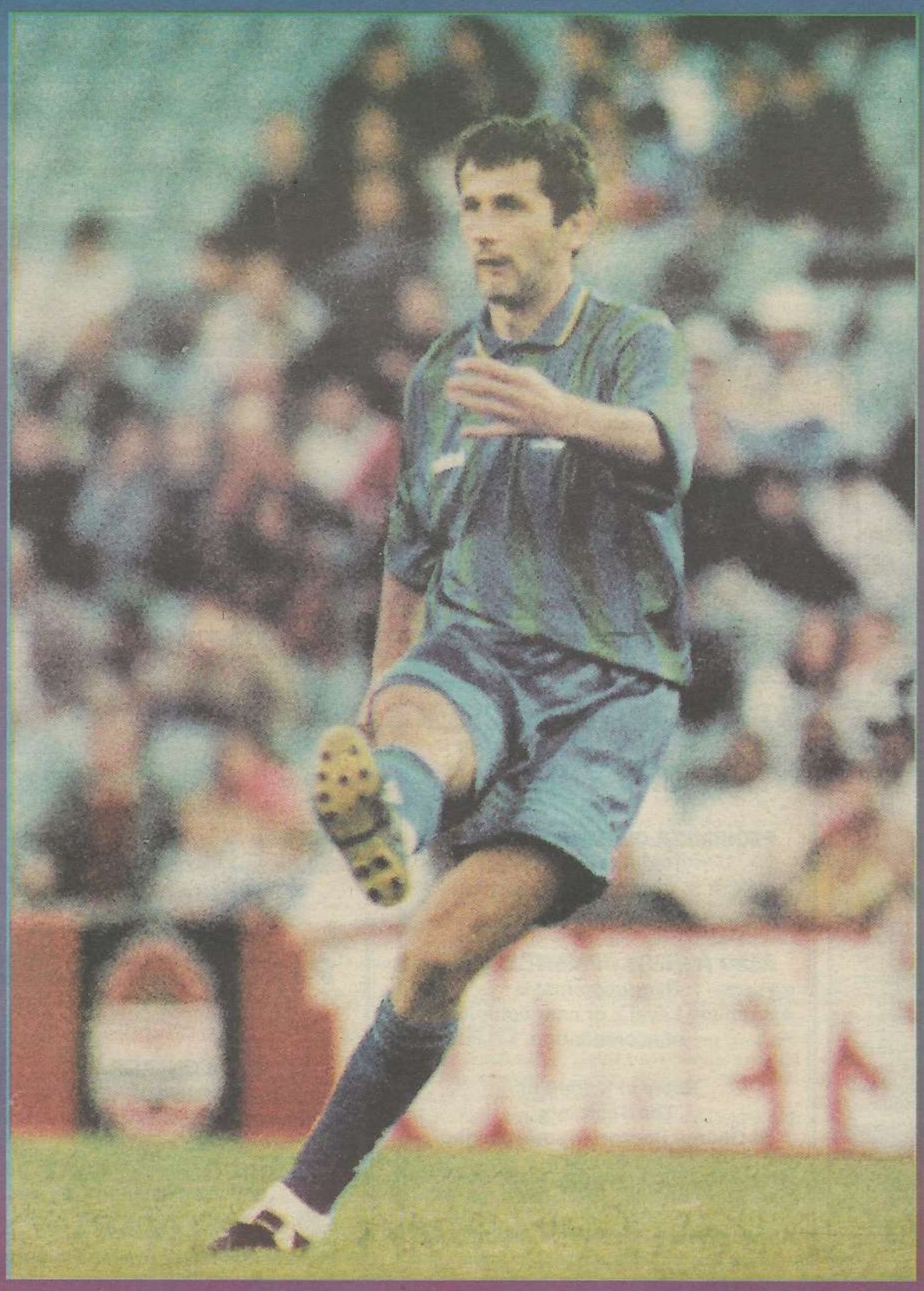
SOCCER

WEEKLY

VOL. 19 No. 865 – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 1998 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2.50

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN SOCC

MILAN, AUSTRALIA SALUTES YOU



By John Economos

MILAN IVANOVIC, Australia's elegant 37-year old World Cup sweeper, emotionally, yet very quietly, strolled off the pitch last Sunday night at Hindmarsh Stadium after playing Japan.

Deep in the lanky libero's heart two wounds were burning.

One: his beloved Australian team had just suffered a rare 0-3 defeat at the hands of the touring Japanese World Cup team.

Two: and far more importantly, the gentle giant was walking off an international arena wearing the 'Green and Gold' for the very last time.

Milan 'The Master'. Some have called him 'The Doctor', had just played his last match for Australia, his 59th.

Having just days prior announced his retirement from international Soccer, this was it, as Frank Sinatra immortalised in a classic song — 'And Now The End Is Near'.

"Retirement was something I've been thinking about for some time. Playing for Australia for the last time in front of my own home crowd in Adelaide seemed to be just right," the polished sweeper lamented.

"I have no regrets. It was time to face the final curtain."

But in fact Milan does have two, if not three, very big regrets.

Deep in his heart are three indelible scars.

Failure by Australia to make USA '94. Failure again last November to qualify for France '98.

And surely the deepest, and most humiliating scar, was being left out by national coach Terry Venables for the second, and ultimately fatal, Melbourne return-leg against Iran.

November 29, 1997. A date Milan will NEVER forget.

Today, this last point, still puzzles every single Australian Soccer fan.

Had 'The Doctor' been on the pitch at the MCG, would Iran, instead of Australia, have made it to France this June?

Brought to Australia nine years ago from Yugoslavia's giant club Red Star, by Adelaide City's then coach Zoran Matic, Milan has since racked up no less than 261 games for the 'Black and Whites' in the National Soccer League.

Today the giant defender stands very tall as arguably being the very best import to have been drafted into the ranks of Australian Soccer.

Within two years of arriving in his new homeland, and at the age of 31 no less, when most players are contemplating retirement, former Australian World Cup coach, Eddie Thomson, did not hesitate to pull Milan into our national team and give him his first international games.

"I will never forget Eddie Thomson. He gave me the golden chance and inspired me to continue in a new international career," Milan reminded us.

The extremely classy lateral defender made his debut for Australia, and Thomson, against the touring Czechoslovakia in 1991.

Since then Ivanovic has never been out of the national squad, reeling off 59 full caps for Australia.

In 1993, when Thomson's World Cup squad was attempting to make the USA '94 World Cup Finals, Canada (in the Sydney leg) almost proved a fatal stumbling block for the 'Green and Gold'.

Yet it was Ivanovic who, after that battle, proudly walked off the Sydney Football Stadium as 'Man Of The Match', even though Australia's goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer played a heroic role in the penalty shoot-out to enable Australia to climb into a final showdown against Maradona's Argentina.

"Physically I feel fantastic.

"I really believe that I still have two good years left in me at club level," ended the veteran international warrior.

Ivanovic, last Sunday night at the Hindmarsh Stadium, (also his own Club Adelaide City's home ground) was given an extended standing ovation as he led Australia out as an honorary captain in the battle against Japan.

Germany had Beckenbauer.
Australia had Ivanovic!

Milan Ivanovic: "You did it your way".

THE BEST.
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.
AUSTRALIA SALUTES YOU.

(More on page 11)

Editorial

An excellent win by Australia over South Korea at the SFS last Wednesday night was all the more reason for having games such as these in this Four Nation series. It pitted an inexperienced and experimental local team against the might of a side going to the World Cup Finals later this year.

How anyone can describe these matches as 'meaningless' is quite beyond me.

When it was World Cup qualifier time, many complained that the first team comprised mainly of overseas based Australians.

So what! They are ALL Australian surely?

Others went further still and publicly condemned the use of Harry Kewell but, as things turned out, he was certainly the find of the international season insofar as anyone on these shores is concerned.

Then came the ritual 'slag-off the manager' episode with everyone, enjoying the advantage of hindsight, blaming Terry Venables for not closing up the Iran game at 2-0 by bringing on extra defenders.

Isn't that exactly what happened in the Olympics against Spain? Didn't we lose that game 2-3 with everyone then saying the best form of defence is attack?

Strange then that those self same people — who advocated attack, attack, attack — should change tack completely and blast the coach, and his assistants, for the very same tactic they themselves were calling for.

That aside, the importance of this just completed series is many fold and any doubts harboured should have been washed away at the SFS. It was here that players such as Sydney Olympic's Brett Emerton really came of age.

At the start of the match he looked a little out of sorts, De Amicis was commanding at left-back and Troy Halpin slowly but surely started to stamp some authority on the game.

And for those who denounced the use of players such as Alex Tobin, think again.

When Australia were 'under the cosh' in the first-half, Tobin played the captain's role to perfection. Marshalling his troops, rallying around, cajoling the team to focus on the job in hand and not becoming sidetracked or disheartened. Also, by getting the players to dig in and show that truly Australian quality of spirit and soul, a cool head was called for and Tobin, as ever, delivered the goods.

By the end of the match, Saad could have had a couple of goals, so too Emerton, but it is the latter who impressed me most. At the first whistle, Emerton looked small, out of place, frightened even, but at the final sounding of the referee's instrument he was ten feet tall, not physically of course, but in stature and self-belief. With players such as him coming through, our international future looks to be well in hand. He did miss a couple of chances, but then again, who doesn't?

As for Terry Venables, the burning question remains: will he will stay or go? This cannot be answered unless Soccer Australia put an offer on the table for him to reject or accept.

His responsibilities lie in coaching the national side — what he was originally employed to do. Sure it would be nice if he spent more time in this country during the NSL season but, with so many of our stars now playing overseas, a logistical nightmare that is hardly shared with any other nation on earth, this will never be possible.

It would be wonderful if he was here to coach the coaches, help with youth development etc. But that is not his job at this time and is, perhaps, something Soccer Australia will be able to answer in the near future.

Meaningless games? Venables should go etc.?

Wake up and smell the roses.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC'S PLANS

By John Economos

Sydney Olympic last week revealed some ambitious plans for its future under its newly privatised structure, as well as announcing two very special appointments.

Led by mega car-dealership magnate Nick Politis, the Club's new chairman of the 'Five White Knights' that have taken over Sydney Olympic, it was revealed that former national coach Frank Arok had been installed as Technical Director of Coaching at the Club.

Arok commences his duties at Olympic immediately at the end of this season.

Former president of the Australian Soccer Federation, Sir Arthur T. George was appointed as the Club's Director of International Relations.

YOUTH TO BRAZIL

The Sydney based high-profile dynamic businessman Mr Politis, revealed that Sydney Olympic would ambitiously select four of the very best of its youth players to send every year across to Brazil to further develop their Soccer education.

When questioned as to where Sydney Olympic will have its home ground, Mr Nick Politis stated: "We have a few options.

We have a one-year contract still to fill at Belmore Sports Ground. Olympic can negotiate a long-term lease at Leichhardt Oval as well.

"We also have Henson Park under review.

"It's going to be just whatever our fans want.

"We have a problem with our juniors which we must also accommodate a base for them," ended Mr Politis.

But what Mr Politis avoided to mention at the conference, was the fact that his consortium had already secretly investigated the avenues and possibilities of buying outright another playing area.

ABSW's investigations uncovered that the incumbent owners of that sports ground had demanded some $3 million for the run-down 'centre'.

SIR ARTHUR T. GEORGE

Knighted 26 years ago by Queen Elizabeth, Sir Arthur was actually the chairman of a sub-committee that orchestrated the ultimate privatisation of Sydney Olympic.

A life-long member of FIFA, Sir Arthur stated at the conference: "I have watched over the many years with great anguish what has been happening at Sydney Olympic.

"I'm now confident that this new structure will see the Club being run by the five new owners as they run their own businesses.

"And that is with constant management that has very good principles.

"Over the years established clubs in Australia just didn't want a Director of Coaching.

"They didn't want the A.I.S. or a Youth League.

"Today some 60% to 80% of our players have graduated from the A.I.S. or Youth Leagues.

"Today Australia is at a stage where it has become a net exporter of players instead of being a net importer.

"But the time has come, with so many players having left our shores, that maybe we should start again to import just a few quality players.

"But not players that have almost finished their careers, but players that still have a lot to offer us still," the polished statesman ended.

FRANK AROK

Frank Arok in his address, said: "We are trying to do something here at Olympic.

"Something very different at club level that is.

"I'm sure that we can build a very attractive team under two years.

"The new coach (yet to be announced) will be told that he has 20 to 22 players and that he will have to produce.

"We will be setting a benchmark in everything to produce the right type of players at Sydney Olympic.

"My job will be to establish a whole new coaching structure of the entire coaching staff of this Club," ended the always energetic Arok.

(L to r) Mr Nick Politis, Head of UTS Administration Michael Gorgenson, Olympic's General Manager Mr Frank Martin and Sir Arthur T. George

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3.....Good Oil
4.....4 Nations Match Report
5.....Around The Clubs
6.....Letters
7.....NSW Report
8.....Season So Far Pt 2
9.....Ericsson Cup Odds
.....Season So Far Pt 2 Cont.
10....Season So Far Pt 2 Cont.
11.....Les Murray
12.....Brett Emerton
13.....Eric Cantona
14.....Victorian Page
15.....Women's Writes
16.....Around the Clubs Extra
17.....Around the Globe
18.....South America
19.....Italian & Greek
20.....Weird & Wonderful
21.....UK Talk
22.....Around The Globe Cont.
23.....Stop Press

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

7-9 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel (02) 9562-0559. Fax (02) 9550-9352 Email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd. 7-9 Garners Ave Marrickville NSW 2204

DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 7 Garners Ave Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 9562- 0500

VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. Unit 9, 405 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, VIC 3051. Tel: (03) 9329-1636 Fax: (03) 9329-1342

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

STAFF

EDITOR: .....Micky Brock
SUB EDITOR: .....Aidan Ormond
STAFF REPORTER: .....John Economos
LAYOUT/TYPESETTING: .....Mary Quartly
LAYOUT/TYPESETTING: .....Jodee Rogers
PHOTOGRAPHY: .....Jorge Gonzalez
SCANDESK: .....Stewart Johnson
COLOUR SCANS: .....Bill Hawthorne
.....and Robbie Hawthorne

CORRESPONDENTS

SYDNEY: .....John Economos
MELBOURNE: .....Dwyght Tuffnell
NEWCASTLE.....Dane Skafte
QUEENSLAND: .....Glenn Davis
WOLLONGONG: .....Phil Murphy
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: .....Richard Kreider
WOMEN'S CORRESPONDENT: Janene Mar
U. K. HISTORY.....Stuart Jones

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS $130 OVERSEAS $180 PO BOX 155 MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

ADVERTISING

Sydney: John Economos.... (02) 9562-0500
Melbourne Dwyght Tuffnell ....(03) 93291636
Recommended and maximum price. $2.50

* All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.

◆ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.

ST GEORGE SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC.

REQUIRES A GOALKEEPER COACH
Requirements:
N.C.A.S. Goalkeeping Coaching Certificate

ALSO A DEVELOPMENT COACH
Requirements:
Accredited Level 2 or near completion of accreditation

Reply in writing to:
The Secretary
St George Soccer Association Inc
PO Box 347
Hurstville NSW 2220

Applications to be received by 27/2/98.

BALMAIN F.C.
NSW STATE LEAGUE

GOOD PLAYERS WANTED
IF YOU HAVE PLAYED A GOOD STANDARD

CONTACT
ROY LAWRENCE (COACH)
(02) 9810 0158 (A.H.) OR 0418 409 206 (BUS.)
HOME GROUND
BIRCHGROVE OVAL
GROVE ST, BIRCHGROVE
BALMAIN

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

By John Economos

SIR ARTHUR T. GEORGE (former long-serving president of the Australian Soccer Federation, 19 years in fact), last week was appointed by Sydney Olympic to be their Director of International Relations.

At a special press conference last week, staged by Sydney Olympic's 'Five White Knights' (the five millionaires that have recently taken Olympic over), Sir Arthur, when addressing the media, showed he has lost nothing as a speaker despite having seen more than eighty summers.

Sir Arthur T. George

In his brief speech Sir Arthur showed he still possesses enormous panache and confidence, displaying his trademark clarity of diction and articulate nature.

Maybe Big Bill (Clinton), could urgently use Sir Arthur in the Middle East right now?

◆◆◆

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI, Australia's attacking left midfielder, for being Man Of The Match, last Wednesday night against South Korea in Sydney, was presented with a brand new Ericsson mobile phone.

The ever-smiling Kris turned a little white but still struggled up a coy smile in gratitude.

Kris Trajanovski

After the presentation 'Good Oil' deduced why 'Traja' was just a little off-balance.

Only four days before Kris had just sold his own mobile!

◆◆◆

MARCONI tonight (Tuesday) at the Marconi Stadium will play an exhibition match against South Korea's touring World Cup squad.

Marconi's senior coach Zoran Matic requested this tough match to be arranged by his officials.

"We need to keep up our match fitness during the League's two week break, and what better and tougher opponent could you wish for than Asia's very best, South Korea's World Cup squad."

The Marconi v South Korean World Cup team kicks-off tonight at 7.30pm.

Tickets are already on sale from at the Club Marconi reception (see ad below).

◆◆◆

FORMER attacking right midfielder for Liverpool, Craig Johnston, was at the Hindmarsh Stadium last Sunday to play in the 'Living Legends' match, a curtain-raiser to Australia vs Japan.

◆◆◆

SBS-TV's Sports producer/presenter Les Murray last week produced, arguably, one of the very best pieces of television in Australian Soccer when he arranged a special programme highlighting a very colourful, informative, lively and entertaining debate between Australia's World Cup coach Terry Venables and SBS Soccer analyst John Warren.

Murray not only was the perfect mediator, but himself contributed some posing questions as well as mixing in some most timely humour to quell the atmosphere when, on a couple of occasions, the dialogue became quite warm.

Well done all...well done SBS...yet again.

◆◆◆

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's Soccer office would like to advise that a bus for supporters will be made available on February 22 for the team's away clash with Wollongong City.

Cost is $20:00 and bookings must be paid for by Tuesday February 17 (today).

MARCONI is almost certain to sign up a second South Korean international for its Ericsson League squad.

Having already signed up South Korean sweeper, Pan-Keun Kim, Marconi has lately been negotiating with striker Sang-Chi Yoon.

Yoon has scored 102 goals in the 305 games in the Korean Pro-League.

He has represented South Korea in 21 full internationals, scoring nine goals.

Yoon will be signed up as a guest-player for six weeks.

Coach Zoran Matic is expected to field Yoon in tonight's match against the touring South Korean World Cup squad, kicking off at 7.30pm at the Marconi Stadium.

◆◆◆

IN the current world class Youth tournament being played in Viareggio in Italy, Marconi, in its first match, went down 3-2 to Bologna last week.

Striker Christian Care opened the score before Bologna hit back with three successive goals whilst Marconi's centre-back Buddy Farrah ended the scoring with a penalty one minute from time.

Marconi's second match of the first three in Round 1 of the prestigious Tournament was against Torino, who defeated Marconi 2-0, the same score as last year when these two teams last met.

Over the weekend, Marconi played their third and last match and were defeated 3-0 by the lowly rated Sovoia.

◆◆◆

RAUL BLANCO's Australian Olympic squad has been confirmed to play three matches against the Brazilian Olympic team coming to Australia late next month.

The confirmed dates for Australia's three matches against the Brazilian Olympians have been set down for Sydney 21st, Adelaide 24th and Perth 28th of March.

Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic coach.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES, the current champions of the NSW Super League, seem to have signed a bright budding star from Sutherland.

Brett Kinnimont, last weekend, turned in a pearler of an exhibition by nailing in a spectacular hat-trick to give the Eagles a solid 5-1 over the Central Coast in the NSW Pre-Season Cup.

Kinnimont's 'three wickets' brought a quiet smile on coach Dougie Utjesenovic's face as the youngster confirmed his signing with the champions.

◆◆◆

GIUSEPPE MARINO, Marconi's 28 year old Italian import, was allowed to slip very quietly out of Sydney last Thursday week, almost totally unnoticed.

Almost unnoticed except to 'Good Oil' that is.

It appeared that since day one of his arrival, the former Inter Milan midfielder or sweeper, seemed never to be in favour with the Marconi coaching staff.

After many weeks of just training and having been used only in a couple of League games, Marconi's administration felt it would be best to pay the player off and allow him to return to Palermo.

Ironically Marino boarded the same Alitalia flight for Rome as Marconi's Youth squad that flew out to Italy to compete in the Viareggio Tournament.

◆◆◆

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, recently privatised by the takeover of 'Five White Knights', five Sydney businessmen and all multi millionaires, seems to already have a short-list of candidates for the senior coaching position for next season.

The list is down to just three names, all employed by Ericsson League Clubs.

Wollongong City's Nick Theodorakopoulos, Canberra Cosmos' Branko Culina and Sydney United's David Mitchell.

'Good Oil' has uncovered that two of these candidates could be interviewed some time this week.

'Good Oil' has found that two of the three above names have no intention of linking up with Olympic, despite their pending interviews. Money apparently is not the issue

◆◆◆

ALEX TOBIN, Australia's World Cup captain, after the match last Wednesday night at the Sydney Football Stadium against South Korea, was most complimentary about the ground.

The giant international defender stated to 'Good Oil': "That's one of the very best playing surfaces in all Australia.

"It's an absolute dream to play on"

Dynamic ball-playing striker Paul Trimboli who was with Tobin at that moment, also confirmed his skipper's evaluation of the playing surface.

◆◆◆

Giuseppe Marino: Paid off by Marconi.

Australia's cricket team of the 70s boasted two brothers in the first XI (the Chappells Ian and Greg).

Last Sunday night, sitting on the bench at the Hindmarsh Stadium for Australia's match against the touring Japan, were the goalkeeping Petkovic brothers — Jason and Michael.

Jason was originally selected by national coach Terry Venables as a back-up 'keeper for Zeljko Kalac.

But when Kalac injured his elbow against Chile, Venables quickly drafted in South Melbourne's Michael last Tuesday to serve as a precautionary back-up to his older brother Jason.

◆◆◆

SYDNEY UNITED SOCCER CLUB

SYDNEY UNITED's previously advertised match last Sunday against South Korea was then advertised as being cancelled due to United's A.G.M being held on the same day at Edensor Park.

But, in fact, United's match against the South Koreans did in fact take place, not at Edensor Park, but was shifted across Sydney to the NSW Soccer Federation's playing pitch at Parklea.

United...????...South Korea?????

◆◆◆

THE most vexing, (if not by now) annoying, uncertainty of national coach Terry Venables' future with Australian Soccer could very soon see a resolution being reached by the powers that be at Soccer Australia.

Is Venables staying or going?

Currently being contemplated by S.A. officials is to install Venables in a senior capacity, and appoint one or two former Australian international players to be groomed by Venables to take over the reins of our future national squads.

PLAY WITH BRAZIL

THE FOOTBALL ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE WILL EXCLUSIVELY GUEST THE BRAZILIAN OLYMPIC SOCCER TEAM IN MARCH

- TRAIN WITH BRAZIL, WATCH BRAZIL VS AUSTRALIA, PERFORM AT HALF-TIME
- LEARN BRAZILIAN SOCCER SECRETS
- TERM BEGINS FEBRUARY 23 FOR ALL BOYS & GIRLS 7-17 AT MIRANDA & CONCORD
- ENDORSED BY JOHN WARREN & BRAZILIAN FA, SUPPORTED BY OFC FIFA
- TEAM DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

FOOTBALL ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

HURRY DON'T MISS OUT PHONE 9550-2022 OR FAX: 9550-2544 FOR A FREE BROCHURE & INFORMATION

SOCCER TONIGHT AT MARCONI STADIUM

KICK-OFF 7.30PM

MARCONI v SOUTH KOREA

MARCONI is Proudly Sponsored by BRESCIA FURNITURE

FOUR NATIONS MATCH REPORTS

AUSTRALIA BOUNCES BACK AGAINST SOUTH KOREA

By John Economos

Australia last Wednesday night at the Sydney Football Stadium showed true grit to bounce back onto the winning trail by defeating the touring South Korean World Cup team 1-0.

Australia's goal scored by attacking right midfielder Ernie Tapai six minutes before the break came under most controversial circumstances, looking suspiciously offside.

To one and all, (except Australia's coach Terry Venables), it was a goal scored from an offside position.

Close scrutiny of video replays confirmed it was NOT offside.

Australia's left back Fausto De Amicis started the move as he toe-poked a through ball to Trajanovski. He could have scored himself but sighted Tapai racing in from the right, fed him, and the grateful Tapai smashed home.

Australia was not so impressive in the first session with the South Koreans ripping into the home side with their short technical style of Soccer.

Kris Trajanovski: Man of the Match.

AUSTRALIA 1
SOUTH KOREA 0

In fact as early as the 14th minute, South Korea's attacking right midfielder busted through to drive a violent shot that cannoned off the base of the right post to ricochet back out to striker Choi-Yong who had backed up, but his header back on target was well gathered in by Australia's excellent goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

Eight minutes after this let off midfielder Troy Halpin found Trajanovski who nicely squared to Saad, but his first-time blast was gathered in by the legs of the Korean goalkeeper Seo-Dong-Myung.

The 26th minute saw a magnificent save made by Petkovic, who dived upwards to his left to knock out a16 metre screaming free-kick fired in by Ko.

The second session saw Australia assert its authority and both striker Abbas Saad and right wingback Brett Emerton could have knocked in two or three more.

Nine minutes after the break Trajanovski stretched the towering goalkeeper, 195.5cm Seo-Dong-Myung, when he let fly from 18 metres a vicious low drive that the Korean keeper barely turned for a corner.

In the 59th minute Emerton

Paul Trimboli: Again starved of ball-supply.

cut back a top ball for Saad, but the latter, from just seven metres, skied over the top.

With two minutes left Emerton also failed to hit the target when Saad brilliantly flicked up a great ball but Emerton's header shaved the left post.

Dynamic striker Paul Trimboli yet again was starved of any quality ball supply and the two crosses meant for him were both far too high instead of giving him good flat service.

'Man Of The Match' was attacking left midfielder Kris Trajanovski who unselfishly (yet again) laid off a square ball for Tapai to knock into the target.

Others to do well for Australia were Tapai, Petkovic, De Amicis and skipper Alex Tobin, who was tight in all tackles.

Abbas Saad: Missed out on two goals.

Australia's coach Terry Venables was most pleased with Australia after the match: "With so many new faces in the side I was very pleased with all the lads in all parts of our game. As far as our goal being offside, no it wasn't.

"They (Korean defence) stood still and failed to go with the runner (Tapai). In the end there were many good touches and moves."

Australia's skipper, Alex Tobin, reflected: "I felt our performance was far more polished than we were against Chile a few days back."

Meanwhile South Korea's coach was emphatic in stating:

Jason Petkovic: Outstanding for Australia in goals.

"It was a good offside. Perfect. I was not too happy with many of the referee's decisions as well.

"Ten of my players who played in the Asian qualifiers did not come or play tonight."

AUSTRALIA: J. Petkovic, Emerton, Tobin, Horvat, Babic, De Amicis, Tapai, Halpin, Trajanovski (Mendez 76), Trimboli (Markovski 76), Saad.

SOUTH KOREA: Seo-Dong-Myung, Kim-Jung (Lee Ki Hyung 67), Choi-Young, Jang Dae-Il, Kim Tae (Lee-Sang 86), Ko-Jong, Lee-Min (Choi-Sung 63), Yoo-Sang, Yoon-Jong (Seo-Dong-won 68), Choi-Yong, Jin-Soon.

SCORER:
Australia: Tapai 39

REFEREE: B. Hugo (Australia)

CROWD: 9,823.

JAPAN RAIN ON OUR PARADE

By Val Migliaccio

Australia crashed 3-0 to Japan in the third match of the 1998 Four Nations at a rain swept Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Craig Johnston, the world famous footballer who made headlines for the great Liverpool sides of the 1980s, came to Adelaide to officially open the newly redeveloped Hindmarsh Stadium.

The festivities started early in the afternoon when the South Australian Women's team defeated Queensland, followed by the 'Living Legends' clash with a David Hill X1 taking on Joan Hall's Amassoders X1, with Craig Johnston showing that he hasn't lost any of his magic.

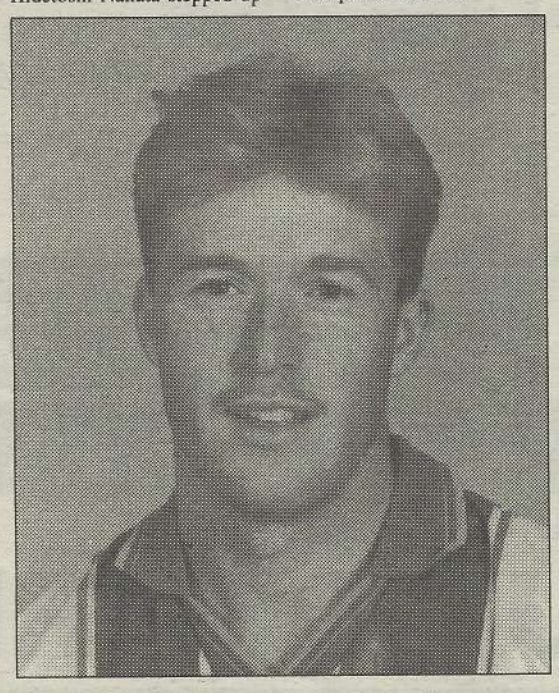
Then came the big one: Australia versus Japan, with Socceroo veteran Milan Ivanovic playing his 59th and final match. He was given the captaincy for the night.

Ivanovic was given a standing ovation and was presented with various awards after the match.

The match commenced well for Australia and in the first minute Troy Halpin supplied a through ball for John Markovski, who smashed his drive into the grateful arms of Japanese keeper Seigo Narazaki from 10 metres.

In the fourth minute the match reached its turning point when the unfortunate Fausto De Amicis handled the ball on the goal line from a Hiroshi Nanami corner. He was consequently sent-off by referee Mark Shields.

'Man of the Match' Hidetoshi Nakata stepped up for the spot-kick and sent Zeljko Kalac the wrong way for Japan to lead 1-0.



Troy Halpin: Has come a long way in just three games.

AUSTRALIA 0
JAPAN 3

There was no turning back for Australia as Japan effectively stretched the Socceroos, and when they were without the ball pressed for possession with great success.

Young Brett Emerton was outstanding playing as the right wingback, and a touch of class by him in the 28th minute saw him release a cross for striker Abbas Saad, who watched his header from five metres miss the upright by millimetres.

The first half saw the Glory midfield duo of Troy Halpin and Ernie Tapai fight for every ball and the Japanese, although leading by the odd goal, were still not safe.

It took Japan right up until the stroke of half-time before Kalac was called into action again when he pulled off a wonderful save after Japan's Nakata supplied Shoji Jo.

The second-half saw Socceroo coach Terry Venables make two changes, with Gabriel Mendez and Steve Horvat replacing Dominic Longo and John Markovski.

The Japanese side asserted their numerical advantage in the second-half, and wore down the Socceroos with some quick counter-attacks, with Atsushi Yamagisawa forcing Kalac into two great saves early in the second half.

The Socceroos had a great chance to equalise in the 54th minute when a Kris Trajanovski cross was met by Horvat, but he couldn't control the bouncing ball from six metres.

Six minutes later Australia made the move of the match with a triangle of passes seeing Saad chipping to Tapai in the penalty area, who in turn layed off the ball for Trajanovski, who struck the ball sweetly from 10 metres, but the reflexes of Narazaki foiled the equaliser.

In the 63rd minute Japan's coach Takeshi Okada brought on the fresh legs of twin strikers Wagner Lopes and Takashi Hirano, a move which sealed the match for the visitors.

Four minutes later Nakata

Ernie Tapai: Did not stop battling.

fed a great ball to Lopes who, in turn, made space on the edge of the box and fired a drive which was parried by Kalac, but he could do nothing to stop the oncoming Hirano posting Japan's second goal.

The match was effectively wrapped up by the Japanese in the 70th minute. Nakata split the Socceroo defence with a great ball on the left to Hirano, who sped towards the near post and fired a drive into the back of the net for Japan's third of the night.

In the 79th minute Motohiro Yamaguchi was also expelled for his second bookable offence.

The final match of the Four Nations still leaves us with the million dollar question, will Terry Venables stay on as Socceroo coach?

AUSTRALIA: Kalac, De Amicis, Ivanovic, Tobin, Longo, (Horvat 45), Emerton, Tapai (Lozanovski 84), Halpin, Trajanovski, Markovski (Mendez 45), Saad.

JAPAN: Narazaki, Ihara, Akita, Narahashi, Hattori,Yamaguchi (sent off 79), Nakata, Nanami (Nakamura 72), Masuda (Hirano 63), Jo (Lopes 63), Yanagisiwa.

SCORERS:
Japan: Nakata 4, Hirano 67, 70.

RED CARDS:
Australia: De Amicis 4.
Japan: Yamaguchi 79.

REFEREE: Mark Shields.

CROWD: Approx. 9,000

AROUND THE CLUBS

ILLAWARRA NEWS

By Phil Murphy

DON'T GO NICK!

The big question down Wollongong way these days is: will coach of the Wolves, Nick Theodorakopoulos, leave Brandon Park for the rejuvenated Sydney Olympic?

The man himself has come up with a "no comment" on the rumours, however, what we do know is that he met the Wolves board last week to talk about a contract.

There is no doubt that many want him to continue to coach the Wolves, and the former Olympic player certainly has had a big impact on the club.

In reviewing his time at the club he speaks in the past tense (is that significant?), adding, "Wollongong is my club, they have treated me very well and I have made many friends here.

"My aim is to get the Wolves into the play-offs and take it from there, we have the team to make an impact on the top-six."

The two clubs in question — Wollongong and Olympic — provide a real contrast. Wolves, for example, have never thrown money around or found themselves in financial trouble, and, prior to their recent privatisation, were led by just two chairmen in their 17-year existence in the national league.

Furthermore, they have not changed coaches on a regular basis — employing just five coaches in their history.

Wolves fans (and there are plenty), believe that the injection of funds from their new owners will lead to success on the park, and crowds at Brandon Park have been on the rise this year, with some big games also to be played in the countdown to the finals.

Olympic, on the other hand, have suffered years of turmoil but, like Wollongong, are looking forward to bigger and better things.

A successful Olympic is a major factor in the success or otherwise of the Ericsson Cup.

Nick Theodorakopoulos will obviously have some major decisions in the next few weeks. I am sure Wolves fans will be hoping that their 'Supercoach' will stay around.

'WE WUZ ROBBED' LES

I am afraid to say that the Wolves players did not agree with a recent SBS 'Play of the Day' verdict. The decision ended up going to rival Sydney United's Abbas Saad.

The Wolves boys felt they 'wuz robbed' because of the quality of David Huxley's play at Newcastle.

His work to provide the opening goal against their steel city rivals was exceptional, he showed great persistence to win the ball from three Breakers defenders before sending a great diagonal pass into the path of in-form marksman Tony Perinich.

The fact that Perinich did so well completed a perfect move.

Speaking of David Huxley, he is having a great season, after signing from Parramatta at the start of the year.

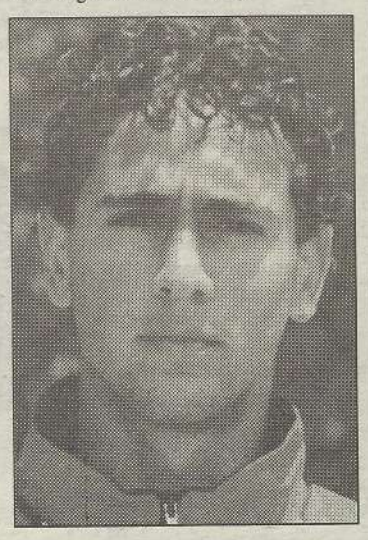
He has certainly shown that there are quality players in the NSW Super League capable of making the step up to the big league.

TWO VITAL GAMES

The next five days will be vital for the high-flying Wolves. Tomorrow night they run out on to the refurbished Hindmarsh Stadium for the crunch match with fellow top six side Adelaide City.

New Wolves signing Kostas Salapasidis may play against his former team-mates in what should be an interesting reunion for the former Young Socceroo, who made the headlines last year with a stunning four goal effort at the WYC in Malaysia.

And on Sunday they are back on home turf for the clash with Sydney Olympic. In the first half of the season Wollongong blew away Olympic at the SFS, winning 3-0, courtesy of a powerhouse first-half display. Given the speculation about their coach, this should add even more spice to what is traditionally a great game (last year's 3-2 victory for Olympic was one of the best games of the season).



Kostas Salapasidis

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THANK GOD FOR VAS

By Richard Kreider

"Thank God Vas is back," are the words of a relieved Glory coach Gary Marocchi after the news that their former star striker has returned to Glory.

This is perfect timing for his team as Nigeria have retained the services of Samson Siasia for an international in Kingston against first time World Cup qualifiers Jamaica.

To add to their selection worries, deadly Bobby Despotovski is out suspended while Michael Garcia, who was training with the Olyroos, will be sidelined for three months with a knee problem.

"Vas will come straight into the side and hopefully he can carry on the same way he played last season, because he scored some terrific goals, a 25 metre bullet against South Melbourne was in fact voted 'Goal of the Season'.

"Newcastle beat us on our ground last year and we aim for revenge. I am sure that if Ernie (Tapai) and Troy (Halpin) remain in pretty good shape after their time with the Socceroos, we won't have a problem beating a team that have now gone seventeen games without a win," ended a confident Marocchi.

Back in town ... Vas has returned much to the relief of coach Marocchi.

In other news, Nigerian import Peter Anasike has been released by mutual agreement after playing just one full game and three off the bench. He will return to Belgium.

GLORY'S 2000 SQUAD

By Aidan Ormond

New Zealand international Danny Hay has joined the growing list of players to commit long-term to Perth Glory.

The big Kiwi defender, who has just finished playing for his nation against World Cup finalists Chile and South Korea, has impressed many this year with his powerful defending and ability to link-up with attack. Further he has pledged himself to the year 2000 with the club, as have a number of other Glory full-timers.

The announcement thus scuppers the theory that Hay, like a number of Kiwis playing in Australia, would leave their local clubs and join a New Zealand based club, if admitted, in our national league in coming seasons.

Glory management have stated that 'no less than eight of our full-time players like what they see in Perth and have decided their careers will continue to blossom with the strongest and most successful team in the Ericsson Cup.'

So it appears that the squad building is continuing with the hope that the side can reach the Finals this year.

Sutherland Shire Soccer Football Club Inc.
SEYMOUR SHAW SOCCER STADIUM
The Boulevarde
Miranda NSW
2228
P.O. Box 583
Gymea NSW
2227
Telephone 9524 3011
Facsimile 9525 7032

SUTHERLAND SHIRE SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

PLAYERS & COACHES FOR 1998

Sutherland Soccer Club which plays in the NSWSF Super League Competition requires players for its U/18 and U/21 grades for the 1998 season. If you wish to be considered, training sessions are being held at Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium every Tuesday and Thursday night at 7.00pm.

Sutherland also requires the services of a Coach for its U/21 squad. Suitably qualified coaches should contact either of the two people below to register their interest.

For information please contact either Jim Burgess 0411 156462 or Richard May 0414 888750.

GOLD COAST CHAMPIONS CUP

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3, 1998
A SOCCER HOLIDAY – GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA
TOURNAMENT ENQUIRIES:
PH/FAX 075 530 4206

SOCCER HOLIDAY GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA

* SANCTIONED BY THE GOLD COAST SOCCER FEDERATION AND QSF
* A SPORTING AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE
* AIMING TO INVOLVE CLUB & SCHOOL SOCCER TEAMS FROM AUSTRALIA, NZ, THE PACIFIC, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, JAPAN & NTH AMERICA
* AT LEAST FOUR GAMES WITH TIME TO RELAX AND ENJOY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ON THE GOLD COAST.
* OPENING CEREMONY 27TH SEPTEMBER
* TOURNAMENT DINNER 30TH SEPTEMBER
* FINALS SERIES ON 2ND AND 3RD OCTOBER AT MUDGEERABA
* TOURNAMENT AGE GROUPS: 11S, 12S, 13S, 14S, 15S, 16S (MALE & FEMALES) 18S
* TEAM FEES $300
* PRIZES: TEAM STRIP COURTESY ATTACK SPORTS.

GOLD COAST CHAMPIONS CUP
PO BOX 1068, MUDGEERABA QLD 4213

An Open Letter to Les Murray, SBS Television

Dear Mr Murray,

The Ericsson Cup program with your interview of Terry Venables was marvellous! Wonderful television.

It is seems obvious that when Mr Venables is in Australia he should appear on Australia's premier television soccer program. And of course, it should have happened more often.

I assume you, or Johnny Warren, thought Mr Venables would have been cornered, suddenly vulnerable to your critique. But he acquitted himself with panache. Everything he said proclaimed, "I am your coach. I am Australian. We are Australia and we have done well." You gave him the chance to answer his critics and in the process he convinced us we need more of him.

Mr Warren may feel frustrated or disappointed but you, Mr Murray, moderated well and facilitated great, great television.

From praise I'll move to some criticism.

While I appreciate you recognise the Wollongong coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos, as a good enough talent to appear on your program, and while I'm grateful you responded to my earlier appeal to look at the Wolves as more than just 'unfashionable' (the politics of the selection of the local Australian squad are still as nauseating), I think Mr Warren was foolish and acting with questionable ethics to have mentioned Nick as a possible target for Olympic.

Mr Warren is an important and valuable commentator, quite apart from being an Australian soccer icon (he coached me very briefly at a clinic in Orange many moons ago). But his almost irrational bias is becoming all too apparent. That is fine for him, but it detracts from your programs.

Furthermore, you have cut back your Australian soccer coverage when you should have been increasing it. Your shorter 'On the Ball' on Friday evenings is an insult to the World Game in this country. Your previews of the weekend games are worse, not better, and there is no excuse for programs where you have silly segments about Brisbane players' domestic habits.

Other football codes on other networks devote far more time, earlier in the week, to their sports. Sure, they may do the silly stuff, but they also include interesting speculation/information about the likely line-ups and the fitness and suspension news of players.

You have tried to tell us 'On the Ball' was bigger and better, but you have sold us a pup.

Yes, you relay soccer coverage from Europe, but your coverage of the World Game in Australia is worse than the coverage the free-to-air networks give to 'minority' sports, let alone the competing football codes.

Surely the match of the round (as you define it) should get a program of its own? Or, why not telecast more matches featuring local teams to their home cities? If you have rights to soccer, use them and let us see it.

But you have a further responsibility. It is to promote the game by coverage and reporting. Not by protecting it. All too often we have to rely on the sports news of the other networks to discover why such and such was sent-off, why there was antagonism at certain matches. We need full and objective reporting from somewhere, not brown-nosing and bias and kid gloves. If we can't get objectivity from you, where else can we get it?

Yes, Mr Murray, SBS is a blessing, an oasis in the desert that is free-to-air soccer coverage in this country. But you have a greater responsibility for more complete, objective coverage than you seem to recognise.

Stephen Webb
Liverpool, NSW

Editor's note:

Everyone is entitled to their opinion but, as was mentioned a couple of weeks ago, with so many matches moving to Sunday nights these days, 'On The Ball' did not particularly warrant a one hour show on Sunday mornings. There is still the excellent wrap-up programme on Monday nights. The other points raised, I'll leave them for our readers to comment on, once again however, I agree, the Terry Venables interview was quite masterful in design and delivery. 'Well played' to all concerned.

Where's that ball?

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for using your editorial to help us find the missing giant Soccer ball.

Some years ago the ball was loaned by a sports good company to a club, but the paper work was not completed.

When it was not returned, no one could remember who borrowed it?

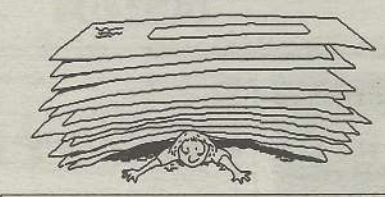
Soccer Far North Coast, which celebrates 50 years of organised competition during 1998, would use the ball as a highlight in its planned street parade through Lismore on April 4.

Any news on its whereabouts, please call (02) 6628 3952 (bh) or (02) 66 283343 (ah).

George Green
Special Projects
SFNCI

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
Australian & British Soccer Weekly
PO BOX 155,
Marrickville
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Now you can also send your letters to ABSW's email address at:

soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
We encourage you to use this service.

Biased Aussie Ref?

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed the delayed telecast of the Australia v South Korea match. Both sides played skilful and inventive football.

The only blemish was the refereeing, which was subtly, but significantly, one-sided in our favour.

Home town refereeing diminishes the game for the players and spectators, causes increasing and understandable frustration in our opponents, and, gives a false idea of how well we are doing.

I would urge Soccer Australia to appoint neutral referees for all home international matches. I know that this will increase costs and will not guarantee good refereeing, but it will provide a more even handed officiating and a fairer contest.

R. Sherlock
Darlinghurst, NSW.

Editor's note:

Pinch me! I never thought the day would come when a supporter complained about a referee being on his team's side!?! I'd like to hear from the readers on whether they thought the referee was for or against Australia in that match. Over to you...

VICTORIA UPDATE

By Dwyght Tuffnell

KNIGHTS LOSE TWO

Loan player Gus Cerro's short stint is over. The midfielder, who joined the Knights for three games as cover for the multitude of injured and suspended players, has returned to duty with his Malaysian club, Negeri Sembilan.

Meanwhile Knights general manager, Sebastian Italia, has resigned from his post.

He follows other general managers who have resigned this season, including Ray McCluskey from Gippsland Falcons and John Denison from Sydney United.

Italia, who joined the club 18 months ago as marketing manager, will leave once he has served the two weeks he gave the club to find a replacement.

FAREWELL FRANK

Falcons coach Frank Arok will step down at the end of the season and return to Sydney, where he will join Sydney Olympic as technical director.

Arok's two year term will come to an end perhaps with Gippsland's best season in recent years.

Some terrific results before the break have seen the Falcons rise to a respectable ninth in the table, and are well placed to make a charge towards the top six when the league resumes this weekend.

However the Falcons have missed out on signing one of their former players, Alex Duric.

They tried to sign him back from Chinese club Apollo Guangzhou at the start of the season. He was in Melbourne last weekend, revealing that he had signed for Adelaide Sharks.

RADIO

Radio station Sport 974 continues its commitment to soccer with a new Monday night program.

Along with the Sunday program that runs from 5.30 to 8.30 pm, featuring an Ericsson Cup match, Sport 974 now has a show on Monday evenings running from 8.00 - 10.30pm.

The show will feature live descriptions of every Green Gully Cavaliers home match.

On alternate Mondays there is a studio show with interviews, including the three Ericsson Cup Melbourne clubs.

Negotiations are under way with the Victorian Soccer Federation in regards to a Premier League program.

Sport 974's executive producer of soccer programs, John Sigur, said he hoped for a deal to be struck soon.

NNSW NEWS

2HD SPONSOR SOCCER

by Dane Skafte

Local radio station 2HD have secured the naming rights for the Northern NSW Soccer Federation Second Division Competition for 1998.

The Second Division Competition was formerly sponsored by Tooheys, but from this season will be known as the 2HD Soccer League.

The sponsorship by 2HD further strengthens their support for the Northern NSW Soccer Federation.

2HD have been a financial and media supporter of the Federation and the have now taken up the naming rights for the competition.

The 1998 2HD Soccer League commences on Saturday 20th March. It will be played over 22 rounds concluding with the Grand Final on Sunday 13th of September.

◆◆◆

PRESIDENT'S CUP STARTS

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation pre-season competition, known as the President's Cup, got underway last week with all the NBN First Division clubs along with the 2HD Second Division clubs competing.

Edgeworth Eagles (coached by the wily Bobby Naumov) is one side that will be hard to beat in this year's competition.

The Eagles lost seven players from last season but have signed five players, including former Breakers defender Glenn Moore, and Weston's Neville Smith and Ian Tressider.

Namouv agreed that winning the competition would be a great way to start the season and build confidence. "Last year we had a younger side who had the opportunity to be selected in the National League," he added.

Goals 2002 with Dez Marton

For details call Dez Marton on 02 9556 3386 or 041 901 2002

WANT TO BE A STAR GOALSCORER

- techniques
- skills
- how to score

Learn with Dez Marton ace goal getter

- Boys & Girls 8-16
- Goalkeepers invited for practice

At Ador Park, Rockdale from 2 March for 12 weeks

24 x 1 hour session
Limited availability, terms & conditions apply.

HOW.....?

With my help you'll ◆ Get Motivated ◆ Lose Weight and Start to get the most out of your life

ALL LEVELS OF FITNESS TRAINING

SUSTAINED IMAGE PERSONAL TRAINING

At very competitive prices
Accredited Fitness Leader
Will come to you
ILIAS ORFANIDIS
✆ 0419 622 685
9601 1761 A.H.

NSW PRE-SEASON CUP

EASTS SLAM ST GEORGE

Eastern Suburbs continued their good early season form and, in the process, sounded an ominous warning that they are definite finals contenders.

The 5-0 whitewash of St George, at St George Stadium, was a perfect illustration of how they can, and will, make a good fist of their season in the Super League.

Easts started brightly and soon went ahead with Vadim Mikoutsky netting after just 13 minutes.

Rudi Jerkovic and Mick Daniels added further goals to give Easts a comprehensive 3-0 half-time lead.

Jim Melissourgos made it four soon after the break and Mikoutsky added his second and Easts fifth in the 64th minute, to complete the rout.

The win leaves Easts sitting alone on top, the only side to take maximum points in the south group.

SHARKS RAMMED

Macarthur Rams sunk Sutherland Sharks 3-0 in a one-sided display at Lynwood Park.

Two goals from former Wollongong City Wolves striker Trevor Whiddett, in the second-half, capped off a dominating performance by the Rams.

After suffering a surprise loss to Eastern Suburbs last week, the new look Rams outfit were determined not to let another game slip.

After Adrian Macerola's surprise goal in the third minute — direct from a corner kick — Macarthur controlled possession but wasted numerous chances to add to that tally before the break.

It wasn't until the 53rd minute that the Rams extended their lead, when Whiddett pounced on a defensive error by the Sharks to smash the ball past Paul Henderson.

Whiddett then made sure of victory with 15 minutes to play, pouncing on a rebound to calmly place the ball past a helpless Henderson.

National Youth League

Southern Division

by Roy Hay

South Melbourne Rockets took a 2-0 lead against South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium on February Wednesday 11 in a postponed Round 14 match in the Southern Division of the National Youth League, but the senior youth team fought back successfully to win by six goals to two.

Adam Kose put the Rockets in front after only five minutes, and this was followed by a powerful header by Julian Zach after 22, described as one of the goals of the season so far.

Nick Marinos pulled a goal back for the Youth in 35 and George Bakatzelos scored the first of his hat-trick in 42.

Just on the interval Tasso Tragakis gave the Youth the lead for the first time.

Up till that point it had been a very even match and though Marinos extended Youth's advantage on 54 minutes, it was not until a double strike by Bakatselos in 61 and 70 minutes that the Youth could feel secure.

In the end it was the superior fitness and commitment of the Youth team which was the difference between the teams.

Sth Melb Rockets	**2**	**South Melbourne**	**6**
Kose		Bakatselos 3	
Zach		Marinos 2	
		Tragakis	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	15	13	0	2	66	15	39
Carlton	14	13	0	1	31	6	39
Gippsland Falcons	14	9	2	3	27	14	29
VIS	14	7	3	4	33	17	24
Bulleen Inter	14	7	2	5	24	19	23
Bentleigh Greens	15	5	2	8	17	30	17
Heidelberg United	14	4	2	8	16	34	14
Albury Wodonga	14	4	1	9	18	21	13
South Melbourne	14	3	3	8	28	24	12
Altona Magic	14	3	2	9	18	50	11
Sth Mel Rockets	14	1	1	12	13	61	4

KOSTA KOs KOREANS

By Phil Murphy

Just as Kostya Tzsyu is capable of knocking out opponents with devastating ease, Wollongong Wolves' new striker Kosta Salapasidis is showing similar instincts in front of goal.

With his new team's first goal in a friendly against touring World Cup Finalists South Korea last week, he has shown why he is so highly rated and the potential of his signing for the top six placed side.

The young striker had returned to Australia on the Monday before the game last week — after having trials in Italy — and was alerted to the fact that Wolves were looking for an attacking style player. He made his decision on Wednesday and the paperwork was just completed before the South Korea game.

Salapasidis gave the Young Socceroos a famous victory over Argentina, winning 4-3 in the Malaysia WYC 97 — scoring all four goals in a display that caught the world's attention.

The striker won the hearts of the 3,000 Wolves fans with a gem of a goal to level the South Korea game at 1-1, and Scott Chipperfield completed the victory with a winner to end his goal drought.

Coach Theodorakopoulos used the game to give all members of his squad a chance to show their form and give them a run before the big game tomorrow night in Adelaide against Adelaide City, and, with the likes of Sevin, Harlock and Reda out for the season,

Kosta Salapasidis

Kosta Salapasidis will influence the composition of Wolves' attacking formation.

He is on loan for the rest of the season from Adelaide City and his coach was very pleased with his new player: "He was just brilliant when he came on and he should do well for the team in the rest of the season," he remarked.

There is a link between Salapasidis and Theodorakopoulos. The Wolves coach is a good friend of the player's father.

"His dad was once coach of West Adelaide and we go a long way back. His dad knows that we will look after him in Wollongong."

There is a chance that Salapasidis will play in the big game this Sunday against Sydney Olympic at Brandon Park.

NSW PRE-SEASON CUP

KINNIMONT SOARS FOR EAGLES

Parramatta Eagles' new young signing from Sutherland, Brett Kinnimont, stole the show with a hat-trick in their 5-1 victory over Central Coast.

This second round pre-season cup clash saw Parramatta produce the form that saw them sweep all before them last season, after opening with a lacklustre performance against Blacktown the previous week.

Kinnimont scored twice to give his side a 2-1 lead at the break after Peter Preston had earlier equalised for the Coasties.

However, in the second-half Eagles' superior match fitness shone through as they dominated the young and inexperienced Coasties.

Another Sutherland recruit, David Thomas, put the Eagles further ahead before Kinnimont rounded off his hat-trick with 20 minutes remaining.

Paul O'Grady capped off the scoring for the Eagles in what was a comprehensive win and an ominous warning to all sides for the year ahead.

GUNNERS FIRE BLANKS

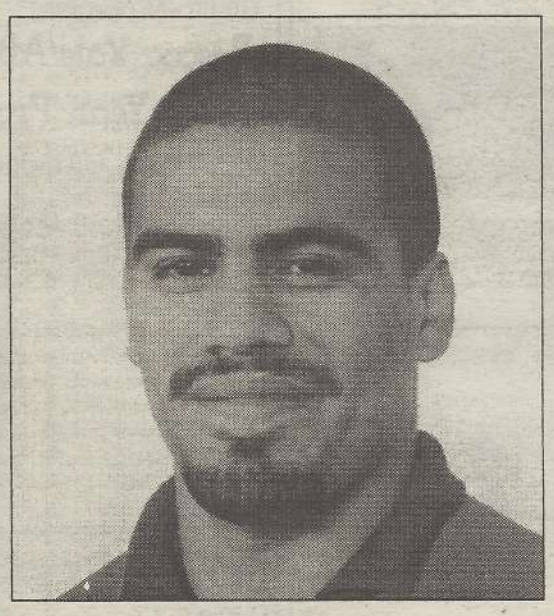
Bonnyrigg White Eagles overcame dogged resistance from Ryde City Gunners to score a 2-0 win and keep their unbeaten record after two rounds.

Both White Eagles goals came in the second-half after Ryde's defence, although under constant pressure, never gave the opposition attack an inch in the first 45 minutes.

The resistance was finally broken in the 55th minute when former Bankstown midfielder Robert Gomez scored after some good work from Johnny Ghisso.

Gomez and Ghisso combined once again for the crucial second goal, setting up Javier Mancino for a clinical finish.

For Ryde, although a second loss, for them it was another important clash and, slowly but surely, their players are getting used to the pace of the game at this level.



Johnny Ghisso

BLACKTOWN HAMMERS BEAT CITY

In the final match of the north group, Blacktown had to overcome a nervous last few minutes to beat Bankstown City 3-2 at the Gabbie Stadium.

After last week's heroic effort against Parramatta, the (former) Demons made it two wins from two games, and are now in a good position to claim a semi-final spot.

Stuart Cleary, playing his first game of the year, scored a second-half double to earn his side the victory.

Pat Bradley opened the scoring for the home team with a 37th minute penalty for them to lead 1-0 at half-time.

However Steve Eagleton, back from a loan spell with UTS Olympic, equalised

Stuart Cleary

shortly after the break. But Cleary stepped up for his two goals in the 65th and 85th minutes to give Blacktown a two goal cushion.

Bobby Zafirov made it an action packed finish when scoring Bankstown's second just a minute later.

Northern Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Bonnyrigg WE	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
Blacktown City	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
Parramatta E	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	3
Central Coast	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
Bankstown City	2	0	0	2	3	5	2	0
Ryde City	2	0	0	2	0	4	4	0

Southern Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Eastern Subsurbs	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6
Canterbury	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
Macarthur Rams	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
Leichhardt Tigers	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
St George	2	1	0	1	1	4	-4	3
Sutherland Shire	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0

NSW Soccer Federation

PRE-SEASON CUP - ROUND 3

Wednesday, 18th February
St George Stadium
(S) Sutherland Sharks v St George Saints — 6.30pm
(S) Canterbury M'ville v Macarthur Rams — 8.15pm
Gabbie Stadium
(N) Ryde CIty v Blacktown Demons — 6.30pm
(S) Leichhardt Tigers v Eastern Suburbs — 8.15pm
Melita Stadium
(N) Bonnyrigg W.E. v Central Coast — 6.30pm
(N) Parramatta Eagles v Bankstown City — 8.15pm

ROUND 4

Friday, 20th February
(N) Bonnyrigg W.E. v Blacktown Demons
Serbian Centre — 7.30pm
Saturday, 21st February
(N) Central Coast v Bankstown City
Pluim Park — 7.00pm
(S) Macarthur Rams v St George Saints
Lynwood Park — 7.00pm
Sunday, 22nd February
(N) Parramatta Eagles v Ryde City
Melita Stadium — 7.00pm
(S) Sutherland Sharks v Leichhardt Tigers
Lambert Park — 5.00pm
(S) Canterbury M'ville v Eastern Suburbs
Henson Park — 7.00pm

***(N) North group, (S) South group**
Under 21s & 18s fixtures at all venues prior to First Grade

SEASON SO FAR PT 2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Coach - Ken WORDEN

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
GIPPSLAND	0-1		3,733	
sth melb	2-2	T.Pondeljak 71, Kutlesovski 76		8,212
W'GONG	1-0	Banini 29	2,845	
perth glory	2-3	Z.Markovski 15, Didulica 42		14,384
SYD UTD	0-0		4,502	
carlton	1-1	Kelic 44		6,057
AD CITY	2-1	Jolic 56, T.Pondeljak 90	4,008	
canberra	1-1	T.Pondeljak 80		2,300
NEWCASTLE	4-1	T.Pondeljak 1,24, Kelic 41, Banini 76	3,140	
olympic	1-2	Kutlesovski 64		4,821
MARCONI	2-1	Didulica 8, Vojtek 25	4,170	
ad sharks	1-2	T.Pondeljak 73		3,500
AD SHARKS	1-0	Susa 9	3,500	
gippsland	2-1	T.Pondeljak 23, Kutlesovski 86		4,385
STH MELB	1-1	Kelic 63	9,217	
wollongong	0-2			5,195
PERTH	1-2	Kelic 38	4,270	

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Totals: Home = 35,417 Away = 52,862 Grand Total = 88,279
Averages: Home = 3,935 Away = 6,607 Overall = 5,192

*DENOTES KEEPERS
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
Joe Didulica*	15	-	-
A Kovacevic	17	-	-
R Banini	14	-	2
Z Markovski	6	4	1
A Marth	15	-	-
T Pondeljak	15	1	7
A Davidson	9	-	-
I Kelic	15	-	6
R Greer	2	1	-
A Deak	14	1	-
I Jolic	15	-	1
I Kutlesovski	6	8	3
Z Susa	6	3	2
John Didulica	11	4	3
D Nastevski	9	2	-
Collina	-	1	-
D Vojtek	6	1	2
M Trupkovic	2	3	-
V Knezevic*	2	-	-
J Rajher	3	-	-
G Cerro	3	-	-
S Rados	1	-	-

(Plus one own goal for)

Joe Didulica

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

Joe Didulica*	7
A Deak	7
A Marth	5
T Pondeljak	5
John Didulica	5
R Banini	3
Z Susa	3
A Kovacevic	2
Z Markovski	2
A Davidson	2
I Jolic	2
D Nastevski	2
V Knezevic*	2
I Kelic	1

Andrew Marth

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Coach - John KOSMINA

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
AD SHARKS	4-2	Zane 8,10,25p, Bennett 79	5,022	
gippsland	1-1	Zane 82		3,571
SOUTH MEL	0-2		5,095	
w'gong city	1-1	McManus 66		4,116
PERTH GLORY	2-3	Pryce 19, Lane 87	4,183	
sydney utd	0-2			3,656
CARLTON	0-0		3,284	
BRISBANE	1-2	Zane 87	2,200	
mel knights	1-4	Pryce 65		3,140
canberra	1-1	McGuire 87		1,573
UTS OLYMPIC	2-3	Ritchie 18, Wilson 65	2,237	
marconi	1-2	Zane 45		3,286
MARCONI	0-0		3,892	
adelaide city	0-4			3,000
ad sharks	1-3	Lowe 47		2,410
GIPPSLAND	1-5	Pryce 68p	2,888	
sth melb	1-2	Zane 84		3,887
W'GONG	1-2	Ironside 35	2,389	

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Totals: Home = 31,190 Away = 28,639 Grand Total - 59,829
Averages: Home = 3,465 Away = 3,182 Overall = 3,324

*DENOTES KEEPERS
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
L Baker*	9	-	-
G Sprod	12	4	-
M Austin	14	2	-
S Pryce	17	-	3
T McManus	17	-	1
R Ironside	17	-	1
P Ritchie	16	-	1
C Zane	17	-	7
J Bennett	11	3	1
D West	6	4	-
M Wilson	11	5	1
M Williams	1	2	-
B Lane	4	8	1
L McGuire	4	4	1
M Lowe	11	1	1
B Swancott*	9	-	-
S Edwards	8	2	-
R Tollenaere	2	-	-

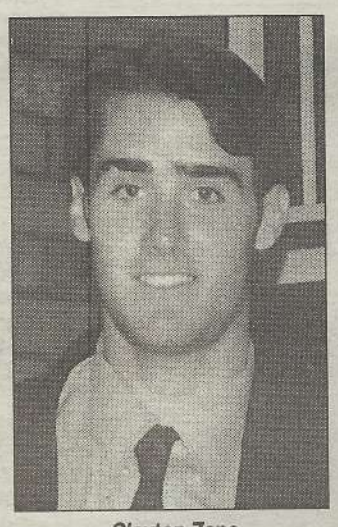
Robbie Ironside

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

C Zane	14
P Ritchie	7
M Lowe	6
S Pryce	2
R Ironside	1
D West	1
B Swancott*	1

Troy Halpin (See Perth Glory)


Clayton Zane

PERTH GLORY

Coach - Gary MAROCCHI

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
carlton	1-2	C Naven 41		5,897
AD CITY	1-4	Siasia 8	17,673	
brisbane	1-0	Despotovski 36		4,502
MEL KNIGHTS	3-2	S Halpin 47, Siasia 81 Despotovski 67	14,384	
newcastle	3-2	Despotovski 12, Strudwick 50, Miller 64		4,183
OLYMPIC	1-0	Siasia 39	16,905	
marconi	1-0	Carbone		5,628
AD SHARKS	2-2	Anasike 63, G Naven 73	17,030	
gippsland	1-2	S Halpin 61		2,008
STH MEL	4-1	Hay 5, Despotovski 17, Miller 52, S Halpin 68	15,379	
W'GONG	0-3		15,080	
CANBERRA	1-1	G Naven 49	12,174	
SYDNEY U	0-2		17,764	
syd utd	0-0			5,532
CARLTON	0-0		14,687	
adelaide c	0-1			4,607
BRISBANE	1-3	Tapai 73p	13,341	
mel knights	2-1	S Halpin 50, Tapai 68		4,270

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Totals: Home = 154,417 Away = 36,627
Grand Total = 191,044
Averages: Home = 15,412 Away = 4,578
Overall = 10,614

*DENOTES KEEPERS
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
T Maras*	11	-	-
C Naven	3	1	1
G Wilkinson	15	1	-
V Buljubasic	15	-	-
G Naven	18	-	2
S Miller	17	-	2
P Strudwick	10	1	1
S Despotovski	16	-	5
E Tapai	9	1	2
S Halpin	11	4	4
D Hay	17	-	1
P McVittie	4	9	-
V Beretovac	1	1	-
P Vukmirovic	4	5	-
S Siasia	16	-	3
A Carbone	11	2	1
D Ithier	-	3	-
T Franken*	7	1	-
E Anasike	2	3	1
J Afkos	3	-	-
S Harland	-	1	-
M Garcia	3	1	-
T Halpin	14	1	-

(10-1-0 with Newcastle)

Troy Halpin

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

S Despotovski	13
T Halpin	9
S Siasia	8
G Naven	7
V Buljubasic	6
S Miller	4
D Hay	4
D Hay	4
T Maras*	3
S Halpin	3
A Carbone	3
P Strudwick	2
G Wilkinson	2
C Naven	1
E Tapai	1

Bobby Despotovski

SEASON SO FAR PT 2

SOUTH MELBOURNE

Coach - Angie POSTECOGLOU

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
brisbane strik.	3-0	Lozanovski 12, Coveny 78, Orlic 83		6,112
MELB KNIGHTS	2-2	Damianos 32,44	8,212	
newcastle bre	2-0	Trimboli 66, Panopoulos79p		5,095
UTS OLYMPIC	2-2	Trimboli 11,88	6,826	
marconi	2-2	Boustianis 29, Anastasiadis 84		5,235
AD SHARKS	4-1	Trimboli 52, Clarskon 55, Panopoulos 84, Curcija 87	4,997	
gippsland falcons	1-1	Curcija 44		5,312
CANBERRA	1-1	Coveny 43	4,200	
W'GONG	3-2	Blatsis 47, Coveny 51p, Lozanovski 58	4,000	
perth glory	1-4	Boutsianis 26		15,379
SYDNEY UTD	3-0	Anastasiadis 29,57,74	6,000	
carlton	3-2	Anastasiadis 30, Boutsianis 36, Curcija 82p		10,632
ADELAIDE CITY	4-1	Costanzo 11og, Boutsianis 18, Trimboli 33p, Curcija 86	10,684	
adelaide city	1-3	Clarkson 19		6,100
BRISBANE STR	5-1	Damianos 1,71, Anastasiadis 10, Trimboli 23 Coveny 76	7,827	
melb knights	1-1	Trimboli 89p		9,217
NEWCASTLE	2-1	Curcija 71, Trimboli 87	3,887	
olympic	3-1	Trimboli 22,66, Lozanovski 36		5,509

HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS

Totals: Home = 56,633 Away = 68,591 Grand Total = 125,224

Averages: Home = 6,292 Away = 7,620 Overall = 6,956

*DENOTES KEEPER

- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
M Petkovic*	17	-	-
N Orlic	11	-	1
C Blatsis	15	-	1
D Clarkson	18	-	2
S Panopoulos	11	4	2
P Trimboli	12	-	10
M Curcija	10	7	5
B Damianos	16	1	4
C Boutsianis	13	3	4
G Lozanovski	11	1	3
T Baser	13	5	-
V Coveny	5	13	4
J Anastasiadis	13	3	6
G Goutzoulis	3	7	-
F De Amicis	17	-	-
R Liparoti	1	4	-
S Iosifidis	10	1	-
D Jones*	1	-	-
F Catalano	-	2	-

(Plus one own goal for)

Michael Petkovic

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

P Trimboli	19
F De Amicis	8
B Damianos	7
G Lozanovski	7
S Panopoulos	5
T Baser	5
D Clarkson	4
J Anastasiadis	3
C Boutsianis	2
V Coveny	2
R Liparoti	2
M Petkovic*	1
S Iosifidis	1

Paul Trimboli

ERICSSON CUP ODDS

Odds courtesy of SportOdds

Saturday February 21

TO WIN TITLE						TO WIN TITLE
15.00	1.75	Carlton SC	3.25	Brisbane Strikers	4.50	101.00

Sunday February 22

4.00	1.80	Sydney United	3.25	Melbourne Knights	4.00	51.00
2.25	1.80	South Melbourne	3.40	Marconi Stallions	3.75	23.00
201.00	1.80	Gippsland Falcons	3.50	Adelaide Sharks	3.75	251.00
15.00	1.57	Perth Glory	3.50	Newcastle Breakers	5.00	--
21.00	1.57	W'gong Wolves	3.50	UTS Olympic	5.00	201.00
3.50	1.45	Adelaide City	3.75	Canberra Cosmos	5.50	--

1998 WORLD CUP

Brazil	4.00
France	7.00
England	8.00
Germany	8.00
Holland	9.00
Italy	9.00
Argentina	13.00
Spain	16.00
Yugoslavia	23.00
Croatia	26.00
Nigeria	29.00
Romania	29.00
Denmark	34.00
Colombia	41.00
Norway	41.00
Bulgaria	51.00
Paraguay	51.00
Belgium	61.00
Austria	91.00
Cameroon	101.00
Chile	126.00
Mexico	126.00
Scotland	141.00
Morocco	151.00
Sth Africa	201.00
Sth Korea	201.00
USA	201.00
Jamaica	251.00
Saudi Arabia	251.00
Japan	401.00
Tunisia	401.00
Iran	401.00

START YOUR OWN
SOCCER CLUB
★ ☆ ★
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE INVITED FROM ANY GROUP WISHING TO PLAY AMATEUR SOCCER IN METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE.
COMPETITIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN 19 DIVISIONS ON SUNDAYS BOTH AM AND PM. CLUBS FROM INDUSTRY, EDUCATION INSTITUTES, REGIONAL CLUBS & ETHNIC SOCIAL CLUBS CURRENTLY PLAY IN THE COMPETITIONS.
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL:
THE AMATEUR SOCCER FEDERATION OF VICTORIA ON
☎ (03) 9528 2955

SportOdds
Bet on Soccer just by picking up the phone.
☎ 132 946 ...that's 132 WIN!

BEAUMARIS SOCCER CLUB INC.
WANTED
HEAD OF JUNIOR COACHING &
A SENIOR TEAM COACH
MINIMUM LEVEL 2 WITH EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
SEND RESUMÉS TO: TONY BRATT
PO BOX 6055, CROMER, VIC. 3193
ALSO REQUIRED: (BOYS & GIRLS)
JUNIOR PLAYERS U/7-U/15
SNR & O/35 VETERANS
REGISTRATION DAY: FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 27
4-6:30PM
REAR OF COMMUNITY CENTRE, RESERVE ROAD, BEAUMARIS

SEASON SO FAR PT 2

SYDNEY UNITED

Coach - Dave MITCHELL

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
canberra	3-1	Saad 12, Hooker 19, Bilokapic 78		3,500
carlton	1-1	Burns 29		4,729
adelaide city	2-0	Mitchell 24,51		5,737
BRISBANE STR	2-1	Plesa 41, Mitchell 55	4,623	
melb knights	0-0			4,502
NEWCASTLE	2-0	Bilokapic 20p, Bosevski 25	3,656	
olympic	3-0	Saad 21,22,65		5,641
MARCONI	1-1	Bilokapic 10	6,363	
adelaide sharks	2-1	Mitchell 36, Saad 63		3,400
GIPPSLAND	1-1	Mitchell 18	3,878	
south mel	0-3			6,000
W'GONG	2-1	Saad 21, Burns 57	3,758	
perth glory	2-0	Saad 37,39		17,764
PERTH GLORY	0-0		5,532	
CANBERRA	4-1	Bilokapic 20p, 40, Wilson 40og, J Culina 57	3,878	
CARLTON	1-1	Kupresak 48	3,333	
ADELAIDE CITY	0-1		3,355	
brisbane strikers	3-0	Phillips 34, Barrett 49, Bosevski 80		4,008

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Total: Home = 38,376 Away = 54,831 Grand Total = 93,207
Averages: Home = 4,263 Away = 6,092 Overall = 5,004

*DENOTES KEEPER
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
A Crews*	6	-	-
V Kupresak	16	1	1
R Plesa	13	-	1
J Vrkic	18	-	-
R Hooker	14	-	1
A Saad	16	-	8
D Mitchell	10	-	5
S Munro	14	-	-
P Bilokapic	17	-	5
J Burns	14	4	2
P Bennett	16	-	-
A Mujanovic	1	6	-
N Bosevski	5	10	2
D Barrett	9	2	1
J Culina	5	8	1
Z Kalac*	12	-	-
M Phillips	6	6	1
T Krslovic	-	1	-
M Jerman	2	2	-
M Galic	-	3	-
M Sterjovski	2	1	-

Andrew Crews

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

A Saad	17
V Kupresak	12
D Mitchell	10
J Vrkic	7
P Bilokapic	5
J Culina	5
R Hooker	4
J Burns	4
A Crews*	2
R Plesa	2
N Bosevski	2
M Phillips	2
S Munro	1
Z Kalac*	1

Velimir Kupresak

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Coach - Geoff HARCOMBE
Peter PAPANIKITAS (After Round 18)

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
MARCONI	1-0	Carle 90	7,007	
ad sharks	1-3	Poimer 8		3,765
GIPPSLAND	3-0	Gotis 7og, Poimer 84p, Tome 87	3,615	
south melb	2-2	Tome 40,84		6,826
W'GONG	0-3		4,525	
perth glory	0-1			16,905
SYDNEY UTD	0-3		5,641	
carlton	1-0	Juric 52		3,105
ADELAIDE CITY	0-1		2,902	
brisbane	0-2			3,478
MEL KNIGHTS	2-1	Hristodoulou 11, Emerton 17	4,821	
newcastle	3-2	Petratos 21, Tsekenis 67, Tome 80p		2,237
CANBERRA	1-1	Tome 14	4,638	
canberra	1-8	Tome 82		3,063
marconi	1-1	Juric 21		6,367
AD SHARKS	3-0	Tome 8p, Kalantzis 70, Emerton 88	2,498	
gippsland	2-3	Bayhan 23,44		2,604
SOUTH MELB	1-3	Tome 7	5,509	

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Totals: Home = 41,156 Away = 48,350 Grand Total = 89,506
Averages: Home = 4,573 Away = 5,372 Overall = 4,973

*DENOTES KEEPER
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
R Catlin*	18	-	-
J De Marigny	15	-	-
D Barbalace	10	-	-
A Ciantar	5	1	-
H Jomaa	12	2	-
L Hristodoulou	8	4	1
N Tome	18	-	8
P Tsekenis	16	-	1
D Poimer	5	-	2
B Emerton	18	-	2
C Kalantzis	2	2	1
N Carle	4	9	1
W Ardone	10	2	-
H Bayhan	8	-	2
A Juric	13	2	2
P Carter	9	-	-
K Taliadoros	3	-	-
S Karavatakis	-	1	-
S Baillie	1	5	-
S Eagleton	8	4	-
A Rodrigues	2	1	-
F Zerda	1	1	-
A Petratos	3	2	1
E Augerinos	6	1	-
C Gonzalez	1	-	-
S La Rocca	-	1	-
K Rastall	3	1	-

(Plus one own goal for)

Brett Emerton

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

R Catlin*	9
N Tome	6
B Emerton	6
P Tsekenis	5
E Augerinos	3
D Poimer	2
N Carle	2
W Ardone	2
A Petratos	1

Bobby Catlin

WOLLONGONG CITY

Coach - Nick THEODORAKOPOULOS

Versus	F-A	Scorers	Home	Away
BRISBANE STR	0-1		4,568	
melb knights	0-1			2,845
NEWCASTLE	1-1	Chipperfield 20		4,116
olympic	3-0	Perinich 5, Connolly 8, Spencer 40		4,525
MARCONI	5-1	Ceccoli 1, Chipperfield 36,39, Connolly 42, Surjan 67p	5,733	
adelaide sharks	1-3	Surjan 6p		4,114
GIPPSLAND	2-0	Surjan 72p, Chipperfield 73	4,148	
sth melb	2-3	Iosifidis 72og, Chipperfield 75		4,000
CANBERRA	8-0	Masi 20, Ceccoli 25, Surjan 46 Chipperfield 27,37,40,56, Younis 85	3,868	
perth glory	3-0	Perinich 60, Surjan 66, Chipperfield 86		15,080
sydney utd	1-2	Masi 8		3,758
CARLTON	3-1	Perinich 22, Surjan 27, Ceccoli 44	6,236	
carlton	0-1			2,000
ADELAIDE CITY	2-1	Masi 18,34	7,604	
brisbane strikers	1-2	Horsley 24		3,383
MELB KNIGHTS	2-0	Horsley 42, Surjan 85	5,195	
newcastle bre	2-1	Perinich 13, Stanton 19		2,389

(HOME GAMES IN CAPITALS)

Home = 41,468 Away = 42,094
Grand Total = 83,562
Averages: Home = 5,184 Away = 4,677
Overall = 5,097

*DENOTES KEEPER
- DENOTES NOT APPLICABLE

Player	Apps	Sub	Goals
B Hughes*	8	-	-
A Ceccoli	17	-	3
R Stanton	13	1	-
J Connolly	12	1	2
M Horsley	17	-	2
S Sevin	9	5	-
A Surjan	17	-	8
S Dimoski	2	7	-
M Reda	10	4	-
S Chipperfield	17	-	10
N Harlock	7	-	-
G Souris	12	4	-
N Spencer	5	11	1
T Perinich	15	2	4
R Younis	-	5	1
D Huxley	9	5	-
E Masi	8	3	4
A Brodbeck	9	-	-
C Luff	-	1	-

(Plus one own goal for)

Matt Horsley

Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Progress Chart

(Up to and including Round 18)

S Chipperfield	11
A Ceccoli	9
A Surjan	8
T Perinich	8
S Sevin	7
M Horsley	5
E Masi	4
N Spencer	3
A Brodbeck*	2
B Hughes*	1
R Stanton	1

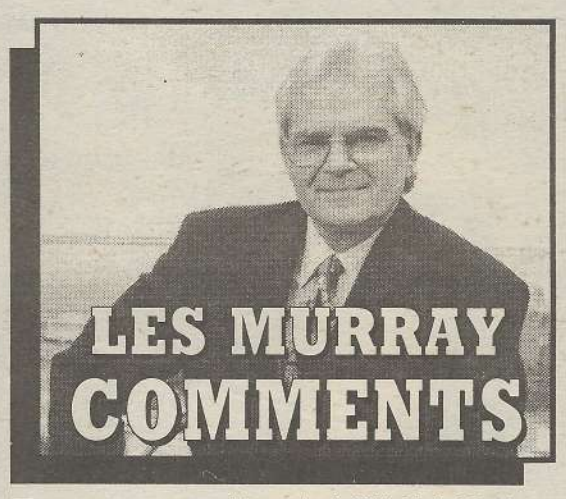
Anthony Surjan

All stats compiled by Micky Brock

Mystery Player

George Kulcsar

Perth flyer?



LES MURRAY COMMENTS

Last week's international series has revealed that, despite the gloom and doom, there are still some quality young players in Australia. I speak in particular of the teenage Brett Emerton and the older Troy Halpin. Both did enough during the series — despite their lack of international experience —to suggest they have good futures in representative football.

Halpin is a consummately skilled player, possessing fine composure and measure of surprise which almost match those of his positional rival 'Chi Chi' Mendez. Emerton — explosive, powerful and skilled, is very promising even though there were moments of panic and indecision in his games. But those are merely matters of age and experience.

Which is why Emerton, just 18 and young enough to play in the next World Youth Championship, should put on hold any immediate desire to go overseas. Silly trials, such as the one he recently had with Bordeaux in France, can only damage his career and status if they don't come off. And what's the hurry anyway? Too many of our players are heading overseas too young and when they're too immature. They would be better advised to stay until their early 20s, by which time they have established themselves as internationals and can command more deserving fees, both for themselves and the clubs that invested in them. And, at least we too can see a bit of them.

While there have been a few success stories from players who have gone overseas as teenagers, having bypassed the national league (like Bosnich, Moore, Kewell and Skoko), most of the successes were players who went as established internationals and NSL players like Krncevic, Farina, Slater, Mitchell, Okon, Schwarzer and Viduka.

The best advice to young Emerton is for him to be patient, hang around to be a pivotal member of our youth and Sydney 2000 Olympic teams and then cash in on it. After all, he will hardly be too old to try his hand in Europe at 21.

☆☆☆

I picked up a Soccer newspaper the other day with an interesting lead article headed: 'National Club Names Must Go To Regain Local Support'. The writer bemoaned the fact that there were too many clubs with foreign names and migrant identities which, in turn, had chased away genuine 'Australian' followers.

The writer argued: 'They (the clubs) must abolish all club names with an overseas connection and replace them with Australian names. They should adopt a district name and sponsor the junior association in the area.'

The article had an optimistic tone and went on to add: 'When the barriers have been broken down, confidence built up, and all are united in the cause of Soccer, then you'll see rapid inroads made into every district, school, club and home. Soccer will emerge from its social stage to a spectacle worthy of the support of hundreds of thousands of fans.'

The article appeared in Soccer World, remembered by veteran fans as the 'Green Paper', and the issue was dated August 21, 1959.

Which proves, of course, that most of what is being preached nowadays was preached nearly 40 years ago and has been repeated many times since. Indeed the instructions of the article were followed by many clubs in their effort to assimilate and cultivate local support.

But the success, and the hundreds of thousands of fans the article promised, never materialised.

Of course for all that, it would be wrong to claim that the so-called ethnic based clubs, which are fewer and fewer these days, should not bother to assimilate and broaden their support base.

But what the article does prove conclusively is that some of the things being said and being done today are nothing new nor revolutionary.

By the way, the top league at the time of the article, the NSW First Division, consisted of 14 clubs. Nine of them were district clubs with no migrant connections.

FARE TO EUROPE
MARCH 1 – MAY 31
$1,550 RETURN (PLUS TAXES)
TICKETS MUST BE BOUGHT BEFORE MARCH 31
BONANZA
SPECIAL REDUCED AIR FARES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
You will not be disappointed
RING NOW
9660 5736
ALFA TRAVEL AGENCY
HEAD OFFICE:
1-9 Glebe Point Road
GLEBE NSW 2037
PH.: 9660 5736
Lic. No: 2TA00 1676
SHOP 38 Campbelltown Centre,
Appian Way, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
PH.: 9796 2761 9796 2363

Milan Ivanovic Hangs Up International Boots

(Information supplied by Soccer Australia)

Adelaide City and Australian international defender Milan Ivanovic announced his retirement from the world stage last week. The match against Japan on Sunday was his last official engagement for the Socceroos.

At the age of 37 Ivanovic, who has been a crowd pleaser and stalwart in the heart of defence for both club and country stated: "I have been thinking about retirement for some time now and it just seems fitting to end my international career here in Adelaide."

The player appeared in two World Cup campaigns for Australia — 1994 and 1998 — and spent most of his career alongside Australian and club team-mate Alex Tobin at the heart of the Australian defence.

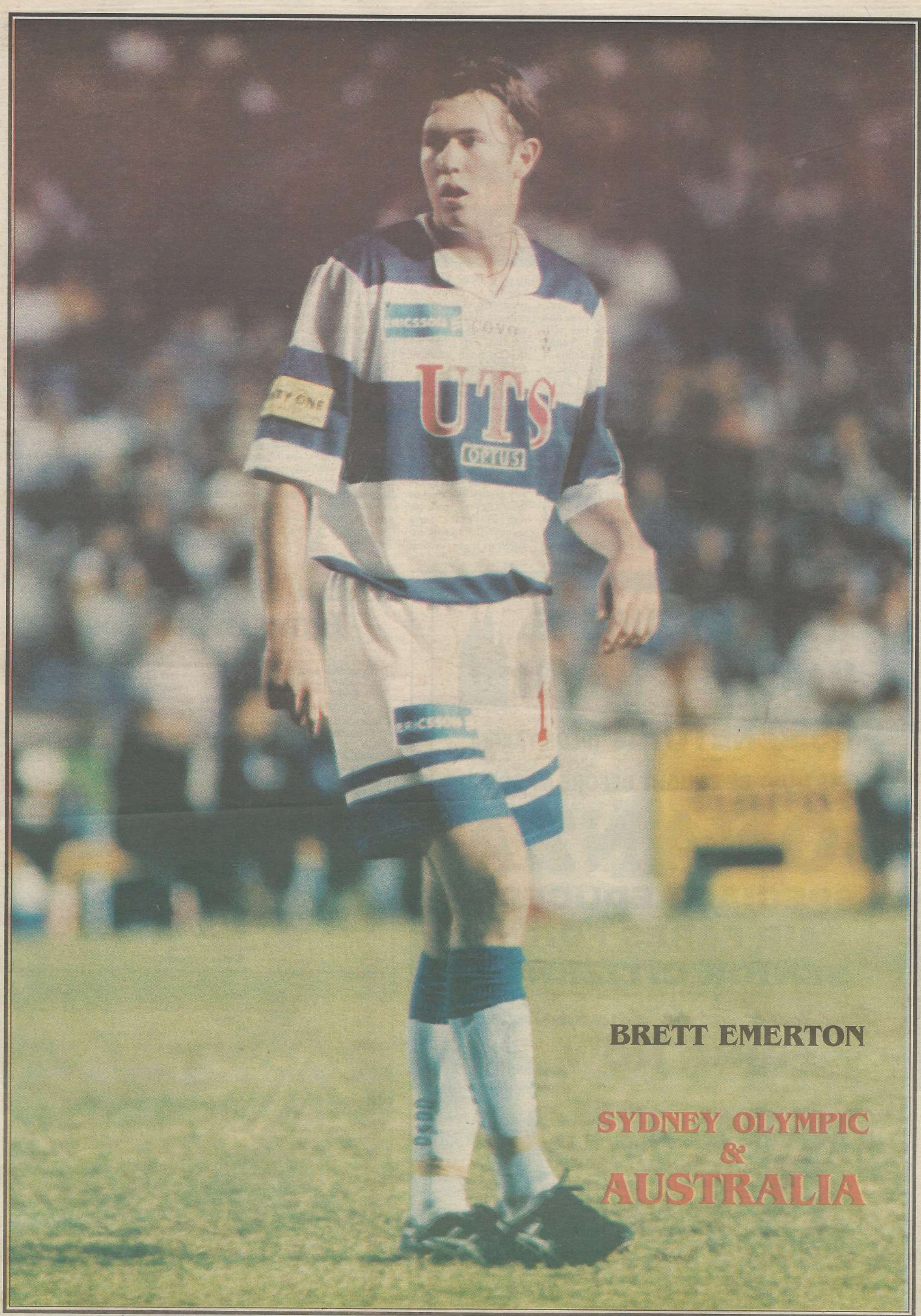
Terry Venables said: "I would have liked to have worked longer with Milan, he is a class act," proving the player will be sorely missed at the highest level of the game.

Having represented Australia no less than 59 times during an illustrious career he began his club football with Red Star Belgrade many years ago, and will be fondly remembered as one of the most skilful defenders to ever have donned the Socceroo jersey.

Career Spotlight

Age: 37
Club: Adelaide City
Previous: Red Star Belgrade, Yugoslavia
First Full International: 1991 v Czechoslovakia
International Apps: 59
Ericsson Cup matches: 261
Ericsson Cup goals: 2

Milan Ivanovic: Well played Milan. ABSW and Australia salute you.


UTS
BRETT EMERTON
SYDNEY OLYMPIC
&
AUSTRALIA

PAST MASTER
SHARP
ERIC CANTONA

Victorian Soccer Federation

ALTONA 2 PORT MELB 1

By John Rigas

Port Melbourne Sharks suffered their fourth consecutive defeat at the hands of champions Altona Magic 2-0 at Paisley Park on Saturday night.

The defeat puts Port Melbourne at the foot of the table, with no points, and in real trouble early in the season.

Two sensational strikes by Altona striker Sash Becinovski sealed the victory for the Magic. His first goal was an absolute gem, he dribbled his way past three Port players to hit a wicked left foot shot past goalkeeper Sam Frangos in the 43rd minute.

Meanwhile, Sharks strikers Andrew Strapelias and Alex Efstathiou were well held in the first-half by Dean Fak and Simon Micevski.

Strapelias did come close in the 54th minute when he was faced with a one-on-one with goalkeeper Darren McGrath, however he hit his shot over the bar.

Becvinovski grabbed his second goal in the 74th minute with a 20 yard free-kick which left goalkeeper Frangos grasping thin air.

In the final minute Port scored a consolation goal through Con Caimakanis with a cracking shot from 25 yards, yet he nearly stole a point when he fired in another strike from outside the penalty box.

Magic: McGrath, Vasilevski (Sapazovski), Tasevski, Runje, Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Fak, Becvinovski, Madarovski (Velkovski), Petrevski (Bogdanovski).

Sharks: Frangos, Sonsini, Tsiakos, Caimakamis, Vargas, Latinopoulos, Mason, Tyrikos (Heath), Strapelias, Efstathiou (Palatsides)

Votes: 3- Tasevski (AM), 2- Becvinovski (AM), 1- Caimakanis (PM)

SUNSHINE 3 GREEN GULLY 2

By John Rigas

In the big Western Suburbs derby Sunshine Georgies ran out 3-2 winners over Green Gully Cavaliers in a nail biting encounter in front of 2,000 spectators at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

Sunshine got off to a dream start when Ilja Dragicevic curled in a free-kick which was met by a diving Anthony Magnacca, who headed the ball past Chris Vella in the first minute.

Sunshine kept the pressure on Green Gully and it came as no surprise when they increased their lead in the 17th minute. Michael Branov produced one of his trademark shots, from 30 yards, which flew past Vella and sent the Georgies supporters into raptures.

Three minutes later Dragicevic nearly increased Sunshine's lead with a sizzling free-kick, which flew past the ten man Green Gully wall but could only find the woodwork.

In the 26th minute Sunshine were denied a penalty when John Waddell handled the ball. Gully's Nick Papadopoulos produced a stunning 30 metre strike which landed in the top corner after 27 minutes.

Papadopoulos' team-mate John Dimitrelos levelled the score in the 57th minute when he struck a sensational free-kick which flew past goalkeeper Steve Wardle.

Substitute Alfonso Opazo scored the winner for the Georgies in the 84th minute, when he placed his shot past Vella from close range.

The win came at a cost for Sunshine with Vassallo and Branov coming off injured.

Georgies: Wardle, Byrne, Kanesoulis, De Bono, Krajacic, Branov (Komadina), Field, Gurpinar, Vassallo (Opazo), Dragicevic, Magnacca.

Cavalier: Vella, Spiteri, Dimitrelos, Brown (Suric), Waddell, Stojcevski, Douglas, Papadopoulos, Genovesi, Donev (Babic), Neceski.

Votes: 3- Dragicevic (SG), 2 - Dimitrelos (GG), 1 - Magnacca (SG).

SPRINGVALE WE 1 MOORABBIN C 0

By Milan Ninovic

Springvale White Eagles retained their spot in the top five with a 1-0 win over struggling Moorabbin City on Sunday.

Moorabbin are yet to win a game and have just one point from four games.

The White Eagles had to wait until the 70th minute to break through Moorabbin's defence.

Two substitutes, Eric Styczen and Saso Vodilovski, combined for the goal.

Styczen found Vodilovski on the left hand side with a long pass and he beat former South Melbourne goalkeeper Bruce McLaren with a terrific shot into the far post.

Moorabbin could have taken the lead seven minutes before half-time, Glenn Davis wasting a good chance for the away side when he shot straight into the arms of Springvale keeper Robert Brian, from eight metres out.

The Eagles took control in the last fifteen minutes, overrunning Moorabbin and they should have added to their one goal.

Another White Eagles substitute, Radoslav Culibrk, made his Premier League debut, aged just 15, and showed enough to be regarded as a star of the future.

White Eagles: Brian, Kitanovski, R.Marinkovic, M.Marinkovic, Calomino, Mladenovic, Nikolic, Craciun (Vodilovski), Kozlica (Styczen), V.De La Plaza (Culibrk), Cvetkovski.

Moorabbin: McLaren, Graham, Caniglia, Armour, Marley, Davis, Colosimo, Scrobogna, Leopold (B.Caffrey), Costa, L.Caffrey (Hanna).

Votes: 3- Mladenovic (SWE), 2- Calomino (SWE), 1- Kitanovski (SWE)

FAWKNER 2 ST ALBANS 2

By John De Felice

Fawkner Blues and St Albans fought out an entertaining 2-2 draw at Jukes Road on Sunday, preserving the Blues record of not having lost a game.

The first fifteen minutes of the match saw Fawkner Blues play very attractive soccer with one touch passes and creative through balls.

In the 9th minute, Eric Vassiliadis' pass found Ivan Duzel, whose delicate ball allowed Santo Emmanuele to shoot and score Fawkner's opening goal.

Two minutes later, Duzel added his name to the score sheet. Joe Biskic's clever pass allowed him to dribble past the Saints defence and score.

With two goals under their belt, the Blues defence was more relaxed in their marking of Saints strikers Kon Sianidis and Hrvoje Karl.

This allowed Sianidis room to cross the ball to an unmarked Karl to head into an open goal to pull one back for the Saints with only fifteen minutes gone.

In the second half, the Blues could have extended their lead when two well taken chances were equally well saved by Saints keeper Marijan Vunderl.

In the 46th minute Frank Tramontana's run, and cut back for Duzel presented a chance, but his shot was well saved by Vunderl.

Emmanuele's blistering shot from 25 metres two minutes later only needed the slightest touch to go in as it skimmed past the goal post.

The Saints equaliser finally came in the 66th minute when Paul Magdic cross picked out Josip Kozic to head home.

Blues: Gonzales, Tramontana (Di Sauro), Grimaud, P.Ferrante, Schipano, V.Ferrante (K.Simsek), Bordignon (T.Simsek), Biskic, Emmanuele, Duzel, Vassiliadis.

Saints: Vunderl, Trupkovic (Vidakovic), Raspudic (Pondeljak), Magdic, Cuze, Basic (Medugorac), Vukadin, J.Kozic, Razov, Sianidis, Karl.

Votes: 3- Biskic (FB), 2- Karl (StA), 1- Vassiliadis

BENTLEIGH 0 PRESTON 2

By George Koukeris

With both teams residing in the bottom half of the Premier League table, Saturday's game between Bentleigh Greens and Preston Lions was crucial for both sides.

Bentleigh, coming off last week's defeat to St Albans, have been disappointing since their Round One win over Heidelberg.

Preston, with only one win from the opening three rounds, were determined to walk away with nothing less then three points.

In a tense first half, chances fell for both sides but neither the Greens nor the Lions could capitalise on the opportunities and take command of the game.

In the 68th minute, Preston finally broke through.

Forward Sash Markovski cleaned up after a scramble in the Greens defence.

And in the 75th minute, the Greens had luck. An indirect free-kick was awarded which was deflected for a corner.

From the corner a push from a Preston defender on Nick Rossios earned the Greens a penalty.

But quick reflexes from Preston keeper Lupce Acevski thwarted the shot from Rossios. The referee however ordered the penalty to be re-taken when he noticed that Acevski had moved early.

Rossios again took the shot only to find Acevski saving his shot again.

Minutes later Preston advanced with Nick Radecki charging forward, beating two defenders along the way.

He looked set to score but was brought down by Greens goalkeeper Glenn Clarke.

Markovski converted the penalty to seal Preston's second win of the season.

Greens: Clarke, Crivari (Healey), Drakos, Constantinou, Micheil, Rossios, Kourkoutzelos, Spence, Papettas, Feehan, Charalambous (Kotsovolos).

Lions: Acevski, Drogriski, Lisolajski, Stavrevski (Slaveski), Ognenovski, Bizimovski, Emsovski (Ivanov), A.Burlak, M.Burlak, Ujgunovski (Radecki), Markovski.

Votes: 3- Acevski (PL), 1- Markovski (PL), 1- Rossios (BG)

In the other Premier League game on the weekend, **Heidelberg United** broke through for their first win under coach Angelo Koutos, coming from behind to defeat **South Dandenong** at Ross Reserve on Saturday.

George Svigos came back into form, netting twice for the 'Bergers in the second-half after Justin Geri had given South Dandenong a first-half lead.

South: Dastey, Dzaferovski, May, Rasimi, Geri, Parrott, Muriqi, Mucaj (Macinkovic), Wright, Villani (Ulusoy), Mezensof.

United: Koletsas, Alexiou (P.Georgiadis), Liapis, Tsoumerkas, Hasler, Svigos, G.Georgiadis (Stefanidis), Jugovic, Amiridis, Lenetis, Nilo.

Votes: 3- Svigos (HU), 2- Nilo (HU), 1- Parrott (SD).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fawkner Blues	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Springvale White Eagles	4	3	0	1	5	5	9
Sunshine Georgies	4	3	0	1	5	6	9
Altona Magic	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Bulleen Inter kings	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
St Albans Saints	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Thomastown Zebras	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Preston Lions	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
Green Gully Cavaliers	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
South Dandenong	4	1	1	2	7	9	4
Bentleigh Greens	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Heidelberg United	4	1	0	3	3	6	3
Moorabbin City	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Port Melbourne Sharks	4	0	0	4	4	8	0

"Healthy Diet — Try It"

TACKLE DIABETES HEALTHY DIET TRY IT

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 3:

Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Babic) - Fawkner Blues 2 (Biskic, Di Sauro)

Round 4:

Bentleigh Greens 0 - Preston Lions 2 (Markovski 2)
South Dandenong 1 (Geri) - Heidelberg United 2 (Svigos 2)
Altona Magic 2 (Becinovski 2) - Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Caimakamis)
Fawkner Blues 2 (Emmanuele, Duzel) - St Albans Saints 2 (Karl, J.Kozic)
Sunshine Georgies 3 (Magnacca, Branov, Opazo) - Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Papadopoulos, Dimitrelos)
Springvale White Eagles 1 (Vodilovski) - Moorabbin City 0

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

Friday February 20
Port Melbourne Sharks v Moorabbin City - Anderson Reserve - kick off 8.30pm

Saturday February 21
Bentleigh Greens v Springvale White Eagles - Kingston Heath Soccer Complex - kick off 6.00pm

Sunday February 22
Thomastown Zebras v Altona Magic - Partridge Reserve - kick off 6.00pm
St Albans Saints v Sunshine Georgies - Churchill Reserve - kick off 6.00pm
Preston Lions v Fawkner Blues - Goodyear Stadium - kick off 6.00pm

Monday February 23
Heidelberg United v Bulleen Inter Kings - Olympic Village - kick off 8.30pm
Green Gully Cavaliers v South Dandenong - Green Gully Reserve - kick off 8.15pm

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE

THE GENERAL SPORT STORE SPECIALISING IN SOCCER
403 BELL STREET, PASCOE VALE SOUTH. PHONE 03 9354 2791
HUGE SELECTION OF BOOTS AND GOALKEEPING GEAR PLUS CLUB DISCOUNTS ON A RANGE OF ITEMS

Proud Sponsor Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Award
SPORTSCENE

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES POOL A ROUND – ADELAIDE

VICTORIA'S WINNING RUN CONTINUES

VIC 2 SASI 1

You can't keep those Victorians down. As underdogs they meant usiness in the race to secure the last erth in the Top Four play-offs, ecording their third consecutive win y defeating South Australia 2-1 last riday night at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Victoria had the psychological edge ver the favourites SA, having handed own a 4-1 thrashing in their last clash a ortnight earlier.

Now with a good performance in this ast round before the play-offs, Victoria ame to Adelaide on a mission to collect nore scalps and knock reigning hampions Queensland aside to claim the rize.

SASI, at home, were keen to forget the revious round's average display, and had nother added incentive. Two wins over he weekend would promote them one oint ahead of NSW to earn SA the right o host the finals series.

Obviously fired up, Victoria again took he game to SA, putting pressure on the efence at every opportunity, and denying heir opponent time and space on the ball.

Good chances fell at both ends, but the football was frantic and frenzied, and not the prettiest to watch.

Victoria's determination earned them the lead in the 34th minute, Louise Bisby's curling corner kick from the left bamboozling everyone in the crowded goalmouth. Team-mate Caroline McEvoy lunged for the ball but missed, and the ball continued towards goal, taking a touch off SA's Tal Karp, unable to react in time.

Defender Felicity Forby attempted to clear off the line, but the bobbling ball had already gone over.

SASI then hit back with an equaliser just four minutes later. A Forby corner from the left picked out an unmasked Kimberley Morris 12 metres in front of goal who at full stretch, converted the chance with a well-taken low strike.

In the second half the Vics' defence was equal to the task, led confidently by keeper Emma Bracken, quickly out off her line to thwart any lurking danger.

Then, seven minutes before regulation time, with Victoria's first chance since early in the half, substitute Amy Kilpatrick produced the winning goal.

A quick break up field saw Kilpatrick with the ball at her feet, 20 metres on the right, and without hesitation unleashed a spectacular cracking drive inside the near post.

The late goal sent the Vics into raptures, sensing the dream could come true, and this a team who had not posted a win before the previous round.

Already narrowly in front of Queensland, these three points meant Victoria only needed to draw their match on Saturday to finish off the job.

VICTORIA: Bracken, Zacharopoulos, Digiammarco, McEvoy, Walker (Carey 82), Barbieri, Fitzgerald, Hamilton, Bisby, Terek (Kilpatrick 64), Cosic (Leitch 72).

SASI: Trimboli, Hollands, Morris, Winn, Forby (Trubee 85), Morrison (Ruotolo 69), Karp (Blacker 84), Black, Prince, Moore, Thomas.

CLASSY THOMAS SINKS MAROONS

SASI 2 QAS 1

Queensland have missed out on the play-offs following their loss at Hindmarsh on Sunday.

It means the underdogs from Victoria have made the finals, and they can thank the sublime talent of SASI's Natalia Thomas, whose two brilliant strikes sunk the Maroons.

In the 27th minute Thomas scored her first with an unbelievable goal, scoring from almost the touchline on an acute angle.

And ten minutes later she made it two with a superb lob over Belinda Kitching.

Lisa Dunne made it interesting late with a goal for the Queenslanders with another quality goal — this one a screamer from 25 metres, but in the end, it was all in vain and the Maroons' valiant efforts to qualify were shot down.

SASI: Trimboli, Hollands, Winn, Forby (Trubee 81), Morris, Morrison (Blacker 64), Karp (Stocco 84), Black, Prince, Moore (Ruotolo 75), Thomas.

QAS: Kitching, Whiddett, Gegenhuber, McShea, Revell, Mann, Bond (Cowell 66), Leake, Garven (Stork 81), Ferguson, Dunne.

FINAL TABLES

POOL A		POOL B	
SA:	18	NSW:	20
VIC:	10	ACT:	14
QLD:	9	NNSW:	7

FINALS FORMAT

FRIDAY 27 FEB:
Minor Semi-Final VIC v ACT
Major Sem-Final SA v NSW

SATURDAY 28 FEB
Preliminary Final
(Winner minor semi v loser major semi)

SUNDAY 1 MARCH

GRAND FINAL

(Winner major semi v winner preliminary)

MAROONS HALT GUTSY VICS

QAS 3 VICTORIA 1

Queensland kept alive their chances to snatch the last Top Four berth ith an emphatic 3-1 win over Victoria n their crunch match last Saturday at Voodville West Reserve.

With Victoria needing only a draw to ecure the spot for themselves, reigning hampions Queensland were under normous pressure. Taking the field with run of three losses, the Maroons needed o record a win or their season's ampaign was over. Queensland were lso without coach Gary Phillips, an arlier change to the draw meaning the ound clashed with his wedding day. aced with the challenge was former SW ITC Coach Tony Walmsley.

Responding well it was Queensland vho enjoyed the better start and peppered he goal early with several long range fforts, but only two requiring the keeper o save.

Victoria created few clear chances, but emained dangerous on the break, and attled hard to make life difficult. QAS ettled to build up opportunitites closer to oal with Georgette Leak operating most ffectively up the left flank.

Finally Queensland's welcome reakthrough came two minutes before alf-time. Just inside the 18 yard box, whilst marking Kim Revell, Victorian ouisa Bisby was pulled up for a andball. With tension at its highest, evell kept her nerve and planted the enalty kick high into the left of goal.

Two quick goals early in the second alf made for a more comfortable lead for Queensland. Another dangerous Leake cross, this time from the right, was not cleared and April Mann collected the loose ball amdist Victorian calls for handball, to head in unchallenged from 7 metres in the 57th minute.

Just two minutes later, Queensland striker Alicia Ferguson nailed a spectacular strike from 20 metres on the left, the ball flying over the keeper and into the far top corner.

With emotions high, Victoria fought back and were rewarded with a goal in the 66th minute. A quick counter-attack provided Leigh Terek with the chance to thump the ball low past the goalkeeper just inside the far post.

Queensland's Lisa Dunne and Leake were unlucky not to add to the tally. Victoria also pressed forward with Kilpatrick and Bisby coming very close to scoring.

That one Victorian goal made all the difference to the calculations, with Queensland still needing to win against frontrunners South Australia on the Sunday. Anything less, and Victoria would advance to the play-offs.

QAS: Kitching, Whiddett, Gegenhuber, McShea, Leake, Short (Videla 63), Mann, Garven (Cowell 63), Revell (Bond 77), Dunne, Ferguson.

VICTORIA: Bracken, Zacharopoulos, Digiammarco, McEvoy, Barbieri, Hamilton, Fitzgerald (Nolan 63), Bisby, Terek, Leitch (Rea 73), Cosic (Kilpatrick 63).

SONIA GEGENHUBER
QAS AND AUSTRALIA

Solid as a rock against the plucky Victorians.

Hot Shot Scorers

Katrina Boyd	9
Sharon Black	8
Lisa Casagrande	6
Natalia Thomas	6
Louisa Bisby	5
Kaye Yardin	4
Bridgette Starr	3
Julie Murray	3

EASTERN SUBURBS WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

PLAYING IN THE NSW SOCCER FEDERATION FIRST DIVISION

WE NEED QUALITY PLAYERS AND GOALKEEPERS FOR OUR FIRST AND RESERVE GRADE TEAMS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CALL OUR HEAD COACH WALTER ALVEREZ ON

0414 926221

OR COME TO TRAINING ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT

CAMDENVILLE OVAL, ST PETERS

AT 6PM.

AROUND THE CLUBS

ACT ACTION

By Nick Guoth

COSMOS' MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Following the success, both on and off the field, when the Novell Canberra Cosmos played UTS Olympic earlier this year, the management of the Cosmos have decided to play more games on Monday evenings.

The first of these will be the next home game against Gippsland Falcons that has been re-scheduled from Saturday evening February 28 to Monday night March 2.

Moves are afoot to have all the remaining home matches for the Cosmos played on Monday nights. Also, there is a good chance that a number of these games will be played at the new Bruce Stadium complex, upgraded for the 2000 Olympic Games.

The opposing clubs are yet to agree with the changes of dates and it is obvious that the Canberra side, professional as they are, will have an advantage over the part-timers from other teams who have work commitments.

CANBERRA TAKES ON A KOREAN INFLUENCE

Last Thursday two South Korean players arrived in Canberra for a trial with the Cosmos. Both are attackers and would fit in well with a team that generates lots of chances.

Park Chang Hyun is an out-and-out striker and has represented the Korean Republic in 21 games and scored 12 goals.

Kim Jong Sig is an attacking midfielder and has international experience mainly with the Korean Youth and Olympic teams.

Both players were brought to Australia by Casey Chang, who also introduced Kim Pan-Keun to Marconi. He stated that a number of Korean players are interested in trialing in Australia, especially with the economies of the two countries enjoying differing fortunes these days.

Although the next Korean National League season commences in early March, both players have showed interest in staying until the end of the Ericsson Cup season, that is if signed.

Both players will be on show for the Cosmos in the trial game against the local representative side, the ACT Rockets, on Saturday night and against the ACT Academy on Tuesday.

LOCALS RETURN TO COSMOS

Three local players are again on trial with the Cosmos. Jason Dunn, Jimmy Baxter and David Milin are making another attempt at making the team.

Dunn and Baxter have both played with the Cosmos under coach Mike Lyons while Milin is a youngster trying to prove himself in the higher levels of soccer.

Jason Dunn was the winner of last years ACT 'Player of the Season'.

He could have been included in the team at the beginning of the season but for the fact that he could not train twice a day, such was, and still is, Cosmos' desire for a full professional team.

Jimmy Baxter has been around the league for many years and is currently playing with the ACT Academy as one of their over-age players. His strong tackling in the midfield was a feature which attracted him to Lyons.

Cosmos coach Branko Culina has requested the players to trial in order to help cover possible injuries and suspensions that always occur at this time of the season

GONE TROPPO?

The Canberra Cosmos second goalkeeper, Barney Smith, has been placed on loan for the winter season to Queensland's XXXX League team Ipswich Knights.

In a move that can only be beneficial to both the Cosmos and Smith himself, it is hoped that the experience gained from playing in a top state league will provide him a better future in next season's National League.

Smith, son of ex-AIS coach Ron Smith, has only three NSL games under his belt and other than playing with the AIS hasn't enough experience to be a regular starter.

His current contract with the Comsos finishes at the end of this season and hence he will be a free agent.

Canberra's goalkeeper coach and third string keeper Paul Jones stated that Barney Smith was highly underrated and if he is not picked up by Canberra for next season could give Clint Bolton a run for his money at the Strikers.

Clint Bolton: Barney Smith could give him a run.

Travel to France with Marconi Travel and Journey Travel ...

NSW PH: (02) 9728 1900

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL
FRANCE 1998

'FIRST ROUND' CHAMPIONSHIP – FOLLOWING ENGLAND & SCOTLAND

DEPART 9 JUNE
10 JUNE UNTIL 27 JUNE
16 NIGHTS

DATE	MATCHES		
12/6/98	PARAGUAY	vs	BULGARIA
15/6/98	ENGLAND	vs	TUNISIA
16/6/98	SCOTLAND	vs	NORWAY
19/6/98	SPAIN	vs	PARAGUAY
22/6/98	ENGLAND	vs	ROMANIA
23/6/98	SCOTLAND	vs	MOROCCO
25/6/98	HOLLAND	vs	MEXICO

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 7 FIRST ROUND TICKETS
- 16 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$7,357.00	$7,997.00
Single Supplement	$1,280.00	$1,920.00

'FIRST & SECOND ROUND'

DEPART 9 JUNE
10 JUNE UNTIL 13 JULY
32 NIGHTS

AS PER FIRST ROUND MATCH ITINERARY FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND ROUND MATCH ITINERARY.

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 15 STADIUM TICKETS INCLUDING, 10 FIRST & SECOND ROUND, 2 QUARTER FINALS, 1 SEMI FINAL, 3RD & 4TH PLACE & FINAL
- 32 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$14,123.00	$15,403.00
Single Supplement	$2,560.00	$3,840.00

'FINAL' CHAMPIONSHIP

DEPART 7 JULY
8 JULY UNTIL 15 JULY
7 NIGHTS

DATE	MATCHES	PLACE
8/7/98	SEMI FINAL	PARIS – S.D.
11/7/98	3 & 4 PLACE FINAL	PARIS – P.D.P.
12/7/98	FINAL	PARIS – S.D.

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 3 STADIUM TICKETS INCLUDING, 10 FIRST & SECOND ROUND, 2 QUARTER FINALS, 1 SEMI FINAL, 3RD & 4TH PLACE & FINAL
- 7 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$6,499.00	$6,799.00
Single Supplement	ON REQUEST	ON REQUEST

All packages are based ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane. Applicable addons for other capital cities. First Class, Business Class and Round World options are available. Recommended Prices Only. Prices may vary due to Exchange Rates.

SA PH: (08) 8211 7866

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL
FRANCE 1998

'FIRST ROUND' CHAMPIONSHIP – FOLLOWING ITALY

DEPART 9 JUNE
10 JUNE UNTIL 27 JUNE
16 NIGHTS

DATE	MATCHES		
11/6/98	ITALY	vs	CHILE
13/698	SOUTH KOREA	vs	MEXICO
14/6/98	YUGOSLAVIA	vs	IRAN
17/6/98	ITALY	vs	CAMEROON
21/6/98	USA	vs	IRAN
23/6/98	ITALY	vs	AUSTRIA
25/6/98	GERMANY	vs	IRAN

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 7 FIRST ROUND TICKETS
- 16 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$6,947.00	$7,647.00
Single Supplement	$1,280.00	$1,920.00

'FIRST & SECOND ROUND'

DEPART 9 JUNE
10 JUNE UNTIL 13 JULY
32 NIGHTS

AS PER FIRST ROUND MATCH ITINERARY FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND ROUND MATCH ITINERARY.

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 15 STADIUM TICKETS INCLUDING, 10 FIRST & SECOND ROUND, 2 QUARTER FINALS, 1 SEMI FINAL, 3RD & 4TH PLACE & FINAL
- 32 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$13,713.00	$15,053.00
Single Supplement	$2,560.00	$3,840.00

'SECOND ROUND' CHAMPIONSHIP

DEPART 26 JULY
27 JULY UNTIL 13 JULY
16 NIGHTS

DATE	MATCHES	PLACE
27/6/98	SECOND ROUND	MARSEILLE
29/6/98	SECOND ROUND	MONTPELLIER
30/6/98	SECOND ROUND	ST. ETTIENNE
03/7/98	QUARTER FINAL	PARIS - S.D.
04/7/98	QUARTER FINAL	LYON
07/7/98	SEMI FINAL	MARSEILLE
11/7/98	3 & 4 PLACE FINAL	PARIS - P.D.P.
12/7/98	FINAL	PARIS - S.D.

PACKAGE PER PERSON INCLUDES:
- RETURN ECONOMY AIRFARES
- 8 STADIUM TICKETS INCLUDING, 3 SECOND ROUND, 2 QUARTER FINALS, 1 SEMI FINAL, 3RD & 4TH PLACE & FINAL
- 16 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- TRANSFERS TO & FROM THE AIRPORTS, HOTELS & STADIUMS BY LUXURY COACH
- FULLY ESCORTED

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)	*** TOURIST	**** SUPERIOR TOURIST
CATEGORY 3	$9,666.00	$10,306.00
Single Supplement	$1,280.00	$1,1920.00

All packages are based ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane. Applicable addons for other capital cities. First Class, Business Class and Round World options are available. Recommended Prices Only. Prices may vary due to Exchange Rates.

Around the Globe

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Everton 1
Thomsen 85
Derby 2
Stimac 21
Wanchope 50

Sheff Wed 3
Carbone 7
Di Canio 63
Hinchcliffe 69
Liverpool 3
Owen 27,73,78

Tottenham 1
Calderwood 51
Leicester 1
Cottee 34

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	10	2	1	33	6	5	3	4	19	13	50
Liverpool	26	9	1	4	28	13	4	6	2	16	12	46
Chelsea	25	8	2	1	22	8	6	1	7	30	19	45
B'burn	25	8	3	2	30	15	4	6	2	14	12	45
Arsenal	24	9	2	2	28	9	3	6	2	16	17	44
Derby	26	9	3	1	25	8	3	3	7	16	24	42
Leeds	25	5	3	4	17	14	6	2	5	17	14	38
West Ham	25	9	1	1	26	8	3	1	10	11	27	38
Leicester	26	4	7	3	14	11	5	3	4	15	12	37
Newcastle	25	6	3	5	15	15	3	2	6	10	15	32
Soton	25	7	1	4	19	14	2	3	8	10	21	31
Sheff Wed	26	6	4	4	24	22	2	3	7	16	29	31
Coventry	25	5	7	1	20	14	2	2	8	9	20	30
A Villa	25	5	3	4	17	16	3	3	7	10	18	30
Wim'don	24	3	3	6	12	16	4	5	3	13	11	29
Everton	26	5	2	5	18	18	2	5	7	13	21	28
Tot'ham	25	5	4	4	14	16	2	2	9	11	26	27
C Palace	25	0	4	8	7	23	5	4	4	14	14	23
Bolton	25	3	7	2	10	12	1	4	8	12	29	23
Barnsley	25	4	3	5	14	22	2	1	10	8	39	22

DIVISION ONE

Crewe 3
Little 49
Garvey 58
Lunt 73
Portsmouth 1
Aloisi 81

Ipswich 5
Holland 42
Johnson 54,61
Mathie 69
Naylor 89
Huddersfield 1
Stewart 37

Man City 0
Bury 1
Butler 52

Middlesbrough 1
Hignett 49
Bradford 0

Port Vale 2
Mills 34,85
Norwich 2
Grant 64
Jackson 68

Stockport 1
Stoke 0

WBA 1
Hughes 75
QPR 1
Dowie 26

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesboro	31	10	3	2	28	9	8	5	3	23	17	62
N Forest	30	11	2	2	33	16	7	4	4	15	12	60
Sun'land	29	8	4	2	27	12	8	3	4	22	16	55
Sheff U	30	11	4	0	28	11	3	8	4	18	20	54
Charlton	30	10	3	1	29	13	5	4	7	24	25	52
WBA	31	8	3	5	17	14	6	4	5	16	15	49
Wolves	30	9	4	2	27	13	5	2	8	13	17	48
Stockport	31	10	4	1	31	13	4	1	11	18	29	47
B'ham	30	6	6	3	17	9	5	5	5	20	14	44
Bradford	32	8	6	2	20	14	3	5	8	13	19	44
Swindon	32	9	3	4	24	16	3	4	9	10	30	43
Ipswich	30	6	4	4	20	14	4	8	4	21	18	42
Norwich	31	7	5	4	16	18	4	3	8	15	25	41
Crewe	31	6	2	8	19	24	6	2	7	21	22	40
QPR	31	7	6	3	19	14	2	4	9	15	32	37
Reading	30	6	4	6	22	23	3	5	6	9	22	36
Oxford	30	6	4	4	18	14	3	2	11	18	30	33
Tranmere	30	6	5	4	21	14	2	4	9	13	24	33
Hud'field	31	5	4	6	17	17	3	5	8	16	29	33
Stoke	31	5	4	6	19	25	3	5	8	12	21	33
Port Vale	31	5	5	6	20	19	3	2	10	17	30	31
Man City	31	4	4	8	20	18	3	5	7	13	17	30
Bury	31	3	8	5	15	19	2	7	6	13	21	30
Portsmouth	30	5	3	8	21	27	1	3	10	11	23	24

RESULTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 22.

DIVISION TWO

Blackpool 3
Bryan 7
Malkin 18
Preece 39
Millwall 0

Bournemouth 2
Warren 13,41
Chesterfield 0

Brentford 0
Bristol City 0

Preston 0
Gillingham 2
Corbett 48
Southall 71

Carlisle Utd 1
Varty 89
Walsall 1
Hodge 47

Northampton 3
Freestone 30
Brightwell 42
Frain 55
Southend 1
Boere 34

Oldham 1
Duxbury 82
Fulham 0

Plymouth 0
York 0

Watford 1
Robinson 52
Luton 1
Johnson 81

Wigan 0
Grimsby 2
Nogan 51
Donovan 86

Wrexham 1
Owen 26
Bristol R 0

Wycombe 2
Brown 32
McCarthy 57
Burnley 1
Payton 88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	31	9	4	2	25	14	10	4	2	21	9	65
Bristol C	32	12	3	2	32	13	6	4	5	22	14	61
N'hampton	32	11	4	2	26	12	2	8	5	12	15	51
Oldham	31	11	4	1	32	14	1	8	6	12	18	48
Grimsby	29	7	5	2	22	8	6	4	5	18	16	48
Fulham	31	8	6	1	18	7	5	3	8	22	22	48
Bristol R	31	7	1	6	23	23	6	7	4	22	22	47
B'mouth	31	9	6	2	22	8	3	4	7	17	23	46
Gillingham	31	7	5	3	20	15	5	4	7	20	24	45
Wrexham	30	7	6	2	21	16	4	5	6	15	19	44
Blackpool	32	9	5	3	27	19	3	2	10	15	29	43
York	31	9	2	4	21	13	1	10	5	16	26	42
Ches'field	32	7	6	2	17	11	2	8	7	11	18	41
Wycombe	32	7	7	2	22	15	2	5	9	15	27	39
Millwall	30	5	4	6	17	17	6	2	7	16	22	39
Walsall	29	7	5	2	20	11	3	3	9	12	23	38
Wigan	30	6	4	5	26	24	4	2	9	17	23	36
Preston	31	6	3	6	17	15	3	5	8	19	22	35
Burnley	31	6	7	2	23	14	2	2	12	14	29	33
Luton	31	4	3	9	23	33	4	6	5	14	16	33
Plymouth	31	6	5	5	26	23	1	6	8	12	23	32
Brentford	32	7	5	4	25	18	0	6	10	7	33	32
Carlisle	31	5	5	6	19	20	3	2	10	21	29	31
Southend	32	5	6	5	18	20	2	1	13	13	40	28

DIVISION THREE

Barnet 2
Wilson 43p
McGleish 68
Cardiff 2
O'Sullivan 4
Fowler 16

Brighton 0
Doncaster 0

Darlington 0
Notts Cty 2
Jones 16
Finnan 24

Hartlepool 0
Chester 0

Macclesfield 1
McDonald 14
Leyton O 0

Rotherham 0
Shrewsbury 1
Steele 62

Scarborough 4
McElhatton 7
Brodie 35,53
Williams 57
Exeter 1
Rowbotham 62p

Scunthorpe 2
Regis 16
Eyre 75
Rochdale 0

Swansea 0
Peterborough 1
De Souza 75

Torquay 5
Watson 14
Hill 27,43
Hapgood 58
Jack 72
Hull City 1
Bettney 16

Cambridge 1
Chenery 25
Lincoln 1

Colchester 2
Lock 30
Gregory 68
Mansfield 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts Cty	32	8	5	2	25	15	12	4	1	31	15	69
Peterboro	32	10	3	3	31	13	5	7	4	23	18	55
Mac'field	32	14	3	0	30	8	1	7	7	16	24	55
Barnet	32	9	5	3	29	16	6	4	5	18	19	54
Torquay	32	11	2	3	31	14	4	6	6	20	26	53
Scarboro	32	11	3	3	35	19	4	4	7	19	27	52
Rot'rham	32	8	4	4	31	24	5	7	4	18	16	50
Lincoln	31	6	5	4	19	19	7	6	3	17	17	50
Chester	32	9	5	2	22	7	5	2	9	20	29	49
Leyton O	31	9	3	3	26	11	4	5	7	15	16	47
Exeter	32	6	8	2	25	15	5	5	6	22	24	46
Colchester	32	10	3	4	28	18	2	5	8	23	32	44
Hartlepool	32	7	10	0	27	14	2	7	6	15	21	44
Scunthorpe	31	6	5	5	19	19	6	2	7	18	20	43
Mansfield	31	6	6	3	26	19	4	4	8	13	16	40
Cambridge	32	7	5	4	27	22	1	8	7	16	23	37
Shrewsbury	30	7	2	5	22	19	2	7	7	18	25	36
Darlington	31	9	5	2	30	19	0	4	11	10	32	36
Swansea	32	5	5	6	16	13	5	0	11	17	31	35
Cardiff	31	3	9	3	13	14	3	8	5	15	18	35
Rochdale	32	8	2	5	23	11	2	1	14	11	32	33
Hull	32	6	4	5	27	24	1	1	15	14	37	26
Brighton	32	1	7	9	13	26	3	4	8	12	20	23
Doncaster	32	2	3	10	9	34	1	4	12	12	46	16

FA CUP

Sheffield United scored a 97th minute winner to beat Reading 1-0 in an all-first division clash on Friday to reach the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Lee Sandford scored the vital goal which was just reward for almost constant pressure on Reading, who had needed penalties to beat Cardiff in the previous round.

Welsh international Dean Saunders hit the woodwork before Sandford scored in the 87th minute to send the home crowd wild.

Aston Villa 0-
Coventry 1
Moldovan 72

Leeds Utd 3
Wallace 5
Hasselbaink 28,87
Birmingham 2
Ablett 63
Ndlovu 81

Newcastle Utd 1
Shearer 22
Tranmere R 0

West Ham 2
Kitson 26
Berkovic 44
Blackburn 2
Gallacher 3
Sutton 62

Wimbledon 1
Euell 14
Wolverhampton 1
Paataleinen 67

Sheffield U 1
Sandford 87
Reading 0

SCOTLAND

DIVISION ONE

Morton 3
Anderson 13,68
Mahood 41
Hamilton 1
Caig 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee	24	4	5	3	13	8	9	3	0	25	6	47
Raith	24	8	2	2	20	6	4	4	4	16	15	42
Falkirk	24	6	3	3	19	16	6	2	4	21	18	41
Airdrie	24	7	5	1	20	13	3	5	3	11	14	40
Hamilton	23	4	3	3	10	11	4	3	6	21	22	30
St Mirren	24	6	2	4	18	15	2	3	7	13	22	29
Morton	25	3	3	6	13	19	3	4	6	18	20	25
Partick	24	2	3	6	20	26	3	5	5	12	16	23
Ayr	23	4	2	6	19	19	2	3	6	7	18	23
Stirling	23	2	6	5	16	26	3	2	5	15	17	23

DIVISION TWO

Clyde P
Stenhousemuir P
Livingston P
Brechin P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clydebank	23	5	5	2	17	9	7	3	1	18	9	44
Livingston	21	7	1	2	20	12	3	5	3	13	13	36
Qu South	22	6	3	2	14	10	3	2	6	18	22	32
East Fife	22	5	1	4	19	19	4	2	6	12	19	30
Stranraer	23	5	3	4	24	18	2	4	5	11	17	28
Forfar	22	4	3	4	22	21	3	4	4	17	20	28
Sten'semuir	22	4	4	3	18	17	3	2	6	11	17	27
Clyde	22	4	3	3	14	10	2	5	5	14	21	26
Inverness	21	5	5	2	24	13	1	2	6	16	18	25
Brechin	22	3	5	3	12	14	1	4	6	13	28	21

DIVISION THREE

Berwick 0
East Stirling P
Queen's Park 0
Cowdenbeath 2
Dumbarton P
Montrose 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alloa	22	7	0	4	24	13	7	1	3	23	14	43
Arbroath	23	7	3	2	29	16	5	1	5	18	16	40
Ross Cty	22	5	3	3	26	13	6	3	2	18	11	39
E Stirling	23	7	0	4	22	13	4	2	6	12	20	35
Albion	22	7	2	1	22	12	3	2	7	17	29	34
Berwick	23	4	3	5	18	20	4	3	4	15	17	30
Qu Park	24	4	2	6	17	21	3	5	4	12	13	28
Cow'beath	23	4	1	7	10	20	4	0	7	12	19	25
Montrose	22	2	3	6	14	21	4	2	5	17	29	23
Dumbarton	22	0	5	6	8	16	4	3	4	21	22	20

SFA CUP

Holders Kilmarnock lost their stranglehold on the Tennents Scottish Cup in the manner they feared most — defeat at the hands of their oldest and fiercest rivals.

Goals from Jim Dick and Ian Ferguson inside the last seven minutes spurred Ayr to their greatest win of the season, and helped them momentarily forget their relegation fears at the foot of the First Division.

Ayr hadn't beaten Kilmarnock in the Scottish Cup since 1924 but that long wait must have seemed worthwhile as their delirious fans celebrated at time up.

World Cup referee Hugh Dallas took two long looks at the pitch before finally giving the go ahead. And it was Killy who were left wishing that he hadn't.

Shell-shocked manager Bobby Williamson, beaten in the Cup for the first time, reflected: "I'm absolutely gutted. Gordon Marshall didn't have a save to make before the goals but they were both well taken. We didn't prise Ayr open and we didn't get the ball forward quickly enough. Conditions definitely suited Ayr but we've let a lot of people down."

His counterpart Gordon Dalziel was understandably in joyous mood as he chewed on a win that elevates him into hero status among the good people of the Auld Toon.

Dalziel said: "We did a lot of homework on Kilmarnock who are a very good side sitting fourth in the Premier League. It is a great result, especially against local rivals. Everybody gave 150 per cent and they got their reward. Hopefully this can kick our season off for us."

Ayr Utd 2
Dick 83
Ferguson 85
Kilmarnock 0

Dundee Utd 1
Olofsson 81
ICThistle 1
Sheerin 27

Hearts 3
Quitongo 61,88
Cameron 66p
Albion R 0

Motherwell 2
Coyne 19
Gough 77og
Rangers 2
Negri 26
Durie 83

Raith R 1
Thomson 84
Falkirk 3
Keith 21
Crabbe 38
McAllister 64

Ross Cty 1
Adams 54
Dundee 1
McGlashan 62

St Johnstone 3
Dasovic 45
O'Boyle 78p
Lumsden 90og
Stirling Alb 1
Tait 87

SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled by Mario Etchart —

SALAS TRANSFER 'BIGGER THAN BEN HUR'

MONEY MEN IN FOR THEIR CUT OF THE MILLIONS

Chilean international striker and South American 'Player of the Year', Marcelo Salas, finally transferred to Italian Serie A club Lazio.. The real cost will be about A$70 million — more than double the amount published in the world's media of late.

Lazio will pay A$28 million for Salas' transfer, plus A$23 million for his seven year contract and another A$23million to the Italian tax office.

The Romans will also have to pay around two million for commissions to agents, duties and commissions to the Argentine Footballers Association and the Argentine Football Federation. On top of that the player's percentage will be A$3.5 million.

If Salas suffers an injury before June playing for Argentine champion River Plate, Lazio will collect A$16 million from an insurance company.

If you consider that Marcelo Salas scored 27 goals in 54 matches since he started his stint with River Plate, on September 15, 1996, the Italian club will pay around 650,000 dollars for each goal netted by the Chilean star.

Salas was the happiest man on earth after the news of his transfer to Lazio.

"I am very happy. My future is secured and I will return one day to River Plate to end my career. I am very grateful to River Plate, to coach Ramon Diaz and to all my fellow players for their support since I came to the club. It is going to be hard to leave River Plate because Argentina became my home and I have been very close to all my family and my friends. But this is a great opportunity, this is a dream come through," said an obviously delighted Chilean striker.

The world will await his appearance at France 98 with much anticipation.

Show me the money! .... Marcelo Salas' deal comes on top of his stunning Wembley appearance where his two goals sunk an experimental England side.

PARAGUAY POLEAXE POLES

Paraguay started its build up preparation for the 1998 World Cup in great fashion when the South Americans thrashed Poland 4-0 in a friendly international played at Asuncion's Defensores del Chavo stadium, in front of 23,000 spectators.

The Paraguayans ('Guaranies'), without some of their most influential players, among them midfielders Roberto Acuna and Struway, were well in control of the match after the first 25 minutes, showing great skills and a solid display from all its lines against a European side that hardly could contain the local pressure.

Flamboyant and controversial goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert was practically a spectator but in the very few times the Polish strikers shot at goal, he responded with his usual arrogant panache.

Young forward Miguel Angel Benitez opened the account in the 26th minute and two minutes later defender Francisco Arce added the second. Champion defender Celso Ayala netted the third in the 74th and substitute Ferreira scored the fourth in the 82nd.

Paraguayan coach, Brazilian tactician Paulo Cesar Carpeggian,i was very pleased with his team's performance, specially with Benitez, Ayala and Arce.

Paraguay will continue its preparation playing friendlies against Argentine side Boca Juniors, and the national sides of USA, Mexico, Colombia, Italy, South Korea, Holland, Romania and Belgium.

The 'Guaranies' are in Group F of the World Cup with Bulgaria, Spain and Nigeria.

PARAGUAY: Jose Luis Chilavert (89th Ruben Ruiz Diaz), Celso Ayala, Catalino Rivarola, Carlos Gamarra (89th Sarabia), Francisco Arce, Denis Caniza, Julio Cesar Enciso, Edgar Aguilera (68th Aristides Rojas), Carlos Morales Santos (68th Ferreira), Miguel Angel Benitez, Jose Cardozo.

POLAND: Grzegor Szamotulski, Tomasz Klos, Tomasz Lapinski, Miroslaw Szymkowiak (63rd Zajac), Radoslaw Kaluzny, Krzysztof Nowak (58th Czereszewski), Radoslaw Michalski, Tomasz Sokolowski (75th Gesior), Krzysztof Bukalski, Cesar Kucharski (41st Bak), Marek Saganowski (70th Piekarski).

FIVE SENT-OFF IN LIMA BATTLE

Peruvian champion Alianza Lima started the 1998 season with an important 1-0 victory over arch-rival Universitario de Deportes, in a hard fought game, played at Lima's National stadium in front of 15,000 spectators.

The referee sent-off two players from Alianza (Sanez in the first-half and Yanez in the second-half), and three from Universitario (Carranza in the first-half and Guadalupe and substitute Ciurlizza in the second-half), all for violent play.

Midfielder Juan Jayo legario scored the only goal of the game in the 61st minute with a perfect free-kick from 35 metres. Legario and Baylon, both from Alianza, were the best players on the park.

Alianza Lima: Bataglia, Basombrio (Mosquera), Ruiz (Machaca), Baylon, Salazar, Gayo, Bazalar (Lovera), Hinostroza, Yanez, Chevez (Cavero), Saenz.

Universitario: Ibanez, Dominguez, Falaschi, Portilla, Carranza, Ferrari (Pajuelo), Guzman (Ciurlizza), Gallardo (Carrion), Pereda, Guadalupe, Farfan (Cotito).

WHAT ABOUT ME?

At least eleven members of the Brazilian 1994 World Cup winning side believe they should be included in the Mario Zagallo's squad for France 98.

The eleven players weren't included in the list of 110 footballers tried by Zagallo in the last three years during friendly internationals, the 1995 and 1997 Copa America, and the Confederations Cup recently played in Saudi Arabia.

Among them are midfielders Mazinho, who plays for Spanish First Division club Celta and Rai, the star of French club Paris Saint Germain. Rai is considered one of the best foreign players in the French league.

'Zagallo experimented with 110 players but he never gave me a chance. Maybe I am paying the price for playing with a lower club', said Mazinho to the influential Brazilian newspaper 'Jornal do Brasil'.

Meanwhile Rai said to the same publication that 'I am in great form and I think I have the right to be among the 22 players who will go to France. After the Atlanta Olympic games most of the players who won the World Cup in 1994 were called by Zagallo, but I never received a phone call from him.'

The other players that Zagallo didn't consider were goalkeepers Gilmar from Japanese J-League Cerezo Osaka and Zetti who plays for Santos, defenders Jorginho (Kashima Antlers, Japan), Marcio Santos (Sao Paulo), Ricardo Rocha (Newell's Old Boys, Argentina), Ronaldao (Santos), Paulo Sergio (AC Roma, Italy) and Branco (retired) and striker Viola from Palmeiras.

Another three players who were members of the Brazilian team in USA 94 — striker Bebeto (Botafogo), midfielder Mauro Silva (Deportivo La Coruna, Spain) and striker Muller (Palmeiras) had their chances, however their prospects of travelling to France with Zagallo's squad are at this stage remote.

The enigmatic Mario Zagallo said, just before the kick-off of the CONCACAF Gold Cup championship that "all the players whom I didn't call until now are not in my plans for France '98."

So the chances of Rai, Mazinho, Ronaldao, Rocha and company appear to be very remote, injuries notwithstanding.

LATIN LEAGUE FOCUS

COLOMBIA

Millonarios, one of the big guns in Colombia, with its new coach Francisco Maturana and former international striker Albeiro Uzuriaga, has not won a game in the first three rounds of the national league.

Meanwhile, arch-rival Atletico Nacional from Medellin is joint leader of the competition with Independiente Santa Fe.

Atletico beat Millonarios 5-3 at Millonarios' own ground while Independiente defeated Medellin 3-2 away.

In a surprise result, Amerca of Cali, the current Colombian champion, lost 1-0 against Caldas in a dramatic encounter played at Caldas.

Other results:

Cali 4 Envigado 2, Tolima 2 Bucaramanga 0, Unicosta 2 Junior 3, Magdalena 0 Huila 3, Tulua 1 Quindio 3, Caldas 1 America 0.

Standings:

Atletico Nacional and Independiente Santa Fe 8 points each; Caldas, Huila and Junior 7 each. Bucaramanga 6; Tolima and Quindio 5; Cali, Envigado and America 4; Medellin 3, Millonarios 2; Magdalena and Tulua 1, Unicosta 0.

VENEZUELA

Chacao is the new leader after its 2-1 victory over Mineros. The match between the former leader Caracas and Zulia was postponed.

Other results:

Minerven 1 Carabobo 3, Tachira 1 Estudiantes 1, El Vigia 1 Trujillanos 2, Llaneros 1 Nacional 1.

Standings:

Chacao 12 points; Caracas and Trujillanos 10 each; Carabobo 8; Estudiantes, Nacional and Mineros 7; Illancros 6; Tachira 5, Minerven 3; El Vigia 2, Zulia 0.

MEXICO

Universidad Autonoma of Guadalajara defeated Necaxa 2-1 and is the new leader in Group Four of the Mexican First Division league 'Winter championship'.

Other results:

Toluca 3 Celaya 3, Monterrey 3 America 2, Veracruz 1 Leon 2, Puebla 1 Cruz Azul1, UNAM 0 Santos 1, Morelia 4 Atlas 3, Toros Neza 0 Atlante 0.

Standings (after seven rounds):

Group One

Atlante 12, Leon 8; Veracruz 7, Celaya 4, Puebla 3

Group Two

Toluca 16, Cruz Azul 14, UNANL 7, Monterrey 6, Guadalajara 2.

Group Three

Santos 15, Morelia 11 UNAM 8, Toros Neza 6.

Group Four

UAG 17, M. Necaxa 12, Atlas 11, America 10.

AND IN OTHER NEWS ...

The Federations of Colombia and Morocco have offered Uruguay friendly international games during April in order to prepare their squads for France.

The Uruguayans, who are out of the World Cup, will consider the offer after consultations with national coach Victor Pua. If they do play, Uruguay will field an U/25 side, similar to the one that played in Saudi Arabia's Confed Cup (and beaten by Australia).

Colombia is in Group G of the World Cup with Romania, England and Tunisia while Morocco is in Group A with defending champion Brazil, Scotland and Norway.

Meanwhile FIFA named the Latin American referees who will be involved in the 1998 World Cup. Surprisingly there is no Uruguayan referee in the final list.

The referees are:

Arturo Brizio (Mexico), Javier Castrilli (Argentina), Epifanio Gonzalez (Paraguay), Marcio Rezende (Brazil), Mario Sanchez (Chile), Alberto Tejada (Peru) and John Jairo Toro (Colombia).

Good luck to all of them!

Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

NAPOLI IN CRISIS

After a humiliating 0-5 loss to Empoli, Napoli have sacked another coach. Giovanni Galeone has been shown the door — the third coach this season to bite the dust.

The new coach is Vincenzo Montefusco. This is the second year in a row that he has taken over as caretaker. Last year, when Gigi Simoni revealed that he had signed for Inter, he was hastily sacked and Montefusco took over.

Bortolo Mutti, Carlo Mazzone and now Galeone have since fallen by the wayside. Montefusco is now in the hot seat but surely very little can be expected of him. Simply put, Napoli are not performing.

To add to the misery of the Southern Italian team, their technical director, Salvatore Bagni, has also resigned. He is a former player for both Inter and Napoli and the Italian national team.

Bagni said that he would never resign, but then again this is Napoli and all sorts of funny things have happened this season.

It is a very sad situation for this once very proud club representing the passionate Neapolitans. They are doomed for this season, but let's just hope that they can pick up the pieces in the Serie B in 1998/99.

LECCE'S COACH RESIGNS

Lecce, another team looking almost certain to be relegated, have also lost their coach, Cesare Prandelli. Prior to this year, he had only coached juniors, so it was a big ask to take over a Serie A outfit.

Prandelli's contract expired in June 1999 but he chose to resign and give someone else a go. He is only 39 and surely he will re-surface again in the Serie A again.

Taking over from Prandelli is his former assistant Angelo Pereni. Pereni, 54, has a long history of being assistant coach.

He was assistant at Como, Torino, Atalanta and Cagliari and learnt from such great names as Rino Marchesi, Ottavio Bianchi, Emiliano Mondonico, Aldo Agroppi, Tarcisio Burgnich and Oscar Tabarez.

Pereni has also written five books on soccer and has promised that when this season finishes he will permanently retire to a peaceful country town.

SACCHI TO PSG?

According to leading sports daily in France, L'Equipe, former Italian national coach Arrigo Sacchi has been linked to Paris St German.

According to the report, Sacchi got in contact with PSG thanks to striker Marco Simone, who played under Sacchi at both AC Milan and in the national team.

The former national team coach wants a long-term contract along with assistant coaches and physio of his choice. Also Sacchi is said to be asking around $A2.5 million per season, however this is negotiable.

Sacchi's record at club level is enviable. At AC Milan he won everything at domestic, European and international level. As national coach he reached the final of the World Cup in 1994. He would be a valuable acquisition for PSG.

BATISTUTA TO MILANO?

It looks like ace Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta will end up in the city of Milano next year, playing for either Inter or their city rivals AC Milan.

Not that either club is short of strikers but the temptation to have one of the world's best may be too much to resist.

Inter President Massimo Moratti is

Batistuta

keen to link Batistuta with Brazilian ace Ronaldo however, it appears that AC Milan may be the favourites.

A short while ago "i rossoneri" (the red and blacks) were interested in purchasing ace German and Udinese striker Oliver Bierhoff. However, their interest in him seems to have waned and this may indicate that Batistuta is their focus.

Meanwhile the name Steve McManaman has been linked to AS Roma by some sections of the Italian media. This may be another one to monitor.

COLLINA REPRESENTS ITALY AT WORLD CUP

The only Italian referee in France 98 will be Pierluigi Collina. Collina, 38, has for some time been regarded as the best in the Serie A.

He is easily identifiable with his completely shaven head, yet he is a well-respected figure.

From March 23 to 27 all the referees will be subjected to stringent fitness tests in Gressy, which is about 30kms from Paris. Collina shouldn't have any problems in making the grade.

ROUND 22 PREVIEW

The main game is in Rome at the Olympic Stadium this weekend. Lazio, home of the newly acquired Marcelo Salas for next season, will face Inter, who in recent weeks have lost their lead on the table to Juventus.

In Genoa, Sampdoria face Udinese in what should be another enthralling contest. Both teams are in good form this season.

In Other Games:

Bari v Lecce, Brescia v Atalanta, Bologna v Piacenza, Fiorentina v Juventus, Milan v Empoli, Napoli v Roma, Parma v Vicenza

JUVE AND INTER SQUANDER LEAD

Juventus and Inter Milan threw away 1-0 leads and had to settle for 1-1 draws from their respective Serie A matches at Brescia and Fiorentina, played in the middle of last week.

Juve forged ahead through Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi, shortly after half-time, and appeared on course for their seventh consecutive league victory against a Brescia side fighting against relegation.

But 19 minutes later defender Alberto Savino headed his first goal in Serie A to give the home side a valuable point, and thus stopping the defending champions in their tracks.

In Florence, Inter took the lead through Ronaldo, who appears to have rediscovered his scoring touch after a barren spell over Christmas and New Year.

The Brazilian fired a free-kick into the bottom left hand corner of Francesco Toldo's net on 26 minutes, after French midfielder Benoit Cauet had been tugged to the ground on the edge of the penalty area.

But Fiorentina — with three straight victories at their back — pulled themselves level before half-time thanks to their own South American goalscorer, Gabriel Batistuta.

The Argentine found himself unmarked in the penalty area, after 42 minutes, and flicked a cross from Brazilian Luis Oliveira past Gianluca Pagliuca in the Inter goal for his 15th league goal of the season.

Juventus move up to 45 points, still four clear of Inter.

Udinese, who were third before start of play, were also held to an away draw — 0-0 against AC Milan at the San Siro.

That result allowed in-form Lazio to edge into third on goal difference following their 3-1 victory over Empoli at the Olympic stadium.

Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved scored twice for the Rome side, who have now strung together 12 consecutive league and cup matches without defeat.

Roberto Baggio also bagged two goals as Bologna beat Bari 4-3 to move further away from the relegation zone.

The former Italy captain scored from the penalty spot after 35 minutes to give his side a 2-0 lead and then struck a second — his 12th of the season in the league — with a superb right foot shot 15 minutes from time.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla made his first appearance for Parma since returning from England's Newcastle, but could not prevent his side squandering an early lead to draw 1-1 against lowly Piacenza.

Parma finished the match with ten men after veteran Luigi Apolloni was sent-off for striking midfielder Roberto Murgita five minutes from the end of the match.

Greek News

By Andrew Akratos

UTS OLYMPIC

Few names in Greek soccer come bigger than Dimitris Saravakos. The great Number 10 of PAO has been a fixture in the Greek game the last two decades and had led the national attack for over a decade. Now in his mid 30's, the player is still part of the PAO first team but rumours surfaced during the week that he is being courted for a series of guest appearances for UTS Olympic.

According to club sources the player is very keen to come to our sunburnt land and at the same time continue a family tradition. Thanasis Savanakos, father of Dimitris, was a stalwart of PAO during the 50's and 60's and ended his playing days with local team Marrickville Olympic.

Like father, like son....

Rumour has it that Olympiakos are looking to establish a "nursery" or sister club in Australia following the success of Steve Refenes and Chris Kalantzis in Greece in recent years. Naturally UTS Olympic, with its Greek origins would be in an ideal position to take advantage of such an opportunity, especially as both players got their start with the club.

Olympiakos Club President Kokkalis has already expressed an interest in the club and since its recent privatisation, discussions are proceeding on an informal basis with the concepts of funding and guest appearances from Olympiakos players, becoming a distinct possiblity.

At the moment this scenario is strictly hypothetical but with persons close to the new owners of UTS Olympic enjoying a personal (and working) relationship with Kokkalis, the scenario may very well change in the near future.

TWILIGHT ZONE

It's no secret that on the political front, Greece and Turkey have been at odds for decades and since the 1974 annexation of Cyprus, even those relations have been stretched at times. However, following the Japan-Sth. Korea bid to jointly host the next World Cup, the Turkish FA has unveiled the mother-of-all joint bids.

Following their failure to Host Euro-2004, the Turks have unveiled a plan for a joint venture with Greece for Euro 2008!

Greece, already hosting the 2004 Olympics, has expressed interest in the proposal for the 2008 tournament, but officials maintain there are many issues to thrash out before such a bid becomes official.

PAOK NEWS

Under 21 defender Giorgios Koulakiotis has joined PAOK for 4.5 years... A four year deal to bring Vasili Lakis to the club has fallen through after PAOK's Peruvian player, Cominges refused to honour his end of the (trade) bargain to be loaned to Paneliakos for one year at double his current wage as cover for the departing Lakis... Three Brazilians, Viara, Regilson and Pariera continue to trial with the club since coach Ananstasiadis has opted to extend their trial period in order to guage their performance in actual games... Ex player Theodore Zagorakis has made an instant impression at Leicster City following his recent transfer. Over the weekend, his fierce shot was parried by the Spurs keeper in a league game and in the resulting scramble the ball was knocked in to open the scoring...

IN BRIEF

Ionikos President, Nikos Kanelakis, has been given a suspended prison sentence and 12 month good behaviour bond after being found of assaulting referee Stelios Harlavanis during a 1994 match against PAO after disagreeing with numerous of the official's decisions... Goran Tomic has settled in at AEK after his recent move from ENIC owned Vincenzia and the early signs are promising. The young striker was signed as cover for veteran star Batista but with the latter suffering knee ligament injuries and forced to sit out the rest of the season, the young Tomic seems set to make his debut almost immediately... Scorer of AEK's "golden goal" in the 1-0 victory last week over Olympiakos, Icelandic international Arnar Gretarsson has signed a 3 year contract worth $360,000 with the club to take him into the next century... Tasos Mitropoulos, whose position with Olympiakos remains unclear, has jetted off to Africa to scout for new talent. The club is well aware of the talent available on the "Dark Continent" and the possibility of unearthing a future George Weah is just too good an opportunity to pass up... Shock of the week was AEK's 1-1 stumble at Kavala last weekend. Missing several players through injury, AEK contived to miss a penalty and have a player sent off as they let let Olympiakos and PAO slip above them on the table. The "Big 3" now occupy the top 3 places on the table and are separared by a point and goal difference- can it get any tighter?... The top scorers in Greece remain unchanged with Ivic (Olympiakos) leading on 18 goals, followed by PAO team mates Waziecha on 17 and G. X. Georgiadis on 15...

Arnar Gretarsson

G.X. Georgiadis

NATIONAL COACH

It's finally official! Anghel Iordanescu has signed a two year contract to coach Greece's national team for the miserely sum of $279, 000 a year and a $261, 000 bonus if Greece qualify for Euro 2000.

Iordanescu will take up the position in the summer after he completes his duties guiding Romania in France in their search for the Jules Rimmet Trophy.

On the short list of npossible new coaches released by the Romanian FA was a surprise name- none other than Dumitriu Dumitriescu, current AEK numero uno!

Anghel Ioardanescu

Weird & Wonderful

By Stuart Jones

1954-55

A new name entered the list of teams to have won the first division this season. That name was Chelsea FC.

'The Pensioners' won with only 52 points, the lowest winning total for any league division since the War. Positions two to five were separated by just one point, with Wolves coming second and Portsmouth in third.

At the bottom Sheffield Wednesday had an awful season, only gaining 26 points and finishing last. Leicester City's stay in the top flight was ever so brief as they took the second relegation spot, a 4-0 home win over Bolton on the last day not enough to save them.

In Division Two, three teams ended on 54 points with another two just one and two points behind. On April 29 the table read: Luton 52, Rotherham 52, Stoke 52, Birmingham 51 and Leeds 51, with one game to go, except for Rotherham and Birmingham who had two matches to complete their season.

Two sides in the bottom six would have a major affect on the outcome — Stoke's rival Port Vale, and Doncaster Rovers.

On April 30, Luton won to go top (3-0 away at Doncaster), Leeds moved to second, Birmingham drew to be two points behind the Hatters, and Port Vale defeated Rotherham 2-1 at home to open the door for rivals Stoke, who squandered the opportunity by losing 2-0 at Plymouth.

On May 2, Rotherham won their last match 6-1 over Liverpool, to see Luton and themselves in the promotion spots.

However Doncaster played Birmingham at home on May 4 and Birmingham were victorious 5-1 to take out Division Two on goal-difference, relegating Luton to second, and seeing Rotherham miss out on promotion altogether.

At the other end of the table Ipswich and Derby County were relegated and they would be replaced by Division Three North champions Barnsley and southern conquerors Bristol City. Bottom of the South was Colchester United and in the North, Chester finished last.

The FA Cup saw surprise packets York City (they ended in fourth place in Division Three North), make it to the semi-finals to take on the might of Newcastle.

It was not a game to be taken lightly as York had defeated Blackpool and Tottenham, and a 1-1 draw in the first semi clash was a case of so near, yet so far, for 'The Minstermen'.

Newcastle won 2-0 in the replay. Their opponents in the Final would be Manchester City, who defeated Sunderland 1-0 in their semi-final. Once again Jackie Milburn led the way as Newcastle were victorious 3-1. Milburn (a rare headed goal for him), Mitchell, and Hannah scored for United, whilst City's lone goal came from Johnstone. After a brief break of two seasons, the FA Cup returned to the Geordies of the north-east of England.

And finally someone broke the domination of Merthyr Tydfil in the Southern League as Yeovil Town and Weymouth battled out for top spot.

With Yeovil a point behind and Weymouth having completed their fixtures, a 2-2 draw with Hastings was enough to see Yeovil win the Southern League.

Gravesend and Northfleet finished bottom, but a new, exciting era lay ahead for them. The teams involved were identical to the previous season, the league at last showing some stability in membership.

In the Southern League Cup, Yeovil defeated Tonbridge 3-1 over two legs to win the double.

Scotland saw Aberdeen put their names in the history books for the first time as well. They won Division A for the very first time, finishing three points clear of defending champions Celtic.

At the bottom the sad story was that of Stirling Albion. They finished last, managing only two wins and two draws all season, scoring only 29 goals and conceding 105. Yet they stayed up!

An expansion in the League saw them keep their place in the top flight, along with Motherwell who finished second from bottom

Division B champions were Airdrie, with Dunfermline also winning a spot in the new expanded Division A. Brechin City finished bottom on 19 points.

The League Cup was won 4-2 by Hearts over Motherwell, with Airdrie and East Fife having been the defeated semi-finalists.

The Scottish FA Cup saw Clyde defeat Aberdeen 1-0 in the first semi to stop any chance of a double, and Celtic defeated Airdrie 2-0 at Hampden Park. The Final, on April 23, finished 1-1, so the game was replayed at Hampden Park four days later. That match finished 1-0 to Clyde to give them their second Cup Final victory.

With Aberdeen, Hearts, and Clyde, the trophies were once again being shared around Scotland.

Around Europe the Champions were:

Austria: First Vienna FC
Belgium: RSC Anderlecht (Cup - Royal Antwerp FC)
Bulgaria: CDNA Sofia (Cup double)
France: Stade de Reims (Cup - OSC Lille)
East Germany: Turbine Erfurt (Cup - Wismut K-M-S)
West Germany: Rot-Wiess Essen (Cup - Karlsruher SC)
Holland: Willem II Tiburg
Italy: Milan AC
Poland: CWKS Warszawa (Cup double)
Portugal: Benfica (Cup double)
Romania: Dinamo Bucuresti (Cup - CCA Bucuresti)
Russia: Dynamo Moskva (Cup - CDSA Moskva)
Spain: Real Madrid CF (Cup - Club Athletico De Bilbao)
Sweden: Djurgardens
Switzerland: FC La Chaux De Fonds (Cup double)

ENGLAND

LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	42	11	5	5	43	29	9	7	5	38	28	52
Wolves	42	13	5	3	58	30	6	5	10	31	40	48
P'mouth	42	13	5	3	44	21	5	7	9	30	41	48
Sunderland	42	8	11	2	39	27	7	7	7	25	27	48
Man U	42	12	4	5	44	30	8	3	10	40	44	47
Aston Villa	42	11	3	7	38	31	9	4	8	34	42	47
Man C	42	11	5	5	45	36	7	5	9	31	33	46
Newcastle	42	12	5	4	53	27	5	4	12	36	50	43
Arsenal	42	12	3	6	44	25	5	6	10	26	38	43
Burnley	42	11	3	7	29	19	6	6	9	22	29	43
Everton	42	9	6	6	32	24	7	4	10	30	44	42
H'field	42	10	4	7	28	23	4	9	8	35	45	41
Sheff U	42	10	3	8	41	34	7	4	10	29	52	41
Preston	42	8	5	8	47	33	8	3	10	36	31	40
Charlton	42	8	6	7	43	34	7	4	10	33	41	40
Tottenham	42	9	4	8	42	35	7	4	10	30	38	40
WBA	42	11	5	5	44	33	6	3	13	32	63	40
Bolton	42	11	6	4	45	29	2	7	12	17	40	39
Blackpool	42	8	6	7	33	26	6	4	11	27	38	38
Cardiff	42	9	4	8	41	38	4	7	10	21	38	37
Leicester	42	9	6	6	43	32	3	5	13	31	54	35
Sheff W	42	7	7	7	42	38	1	3	17	21	62	26

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'ham	42	14	4	3	56	22	8	6	7	36	25	54
Luton	42	18	2	1	55	18	5	6	10	33	35	54
Rotherham	42	17	1	3	59	22	8	3	10	35	42	54
Leeds	42	14	4	3	43	19	9	3	9	27	34	53
Stoke	42	12	5	4	38	17	9	5	7	31	29	52
Blackburn	42	14	4	3	73	31	8	2	11	41	48	50
Notts C	42	14	3	4	46	27	7	3	11	28	44	48
West Ham	42	12	4	5	46	28	6	6	9	28	42	46
Bristol R	42	15	4	2	52	23	4	3	14	23	47	45
Swansea	42	15	3	3	58	28	2	6	13	28	55	43
Liverpool	42	11	7	3	55	37	5	3	13	37	59	42
M'brough	42	13	1	7	48	31	5	5	11	25	51	42
Bury	42	10	5	6	44	35	5	6	10	33	37	41
Fulham	42	10	5	8	46	29	4	6	11	30	59	39
Nott'ham F	42	8	4	9	29	29	8	3	10	29	33	39
Lincoln	42	8	6	7	39	35	5	4	12	29	44	36
Port Vale	42	10	6	5	31	21	2	5	14	17	50	35
Doncaster	42	10	5	6	35	34	4	2	15	23	61	35
Hull	42	7	5	9	30	35	5	5	11	14	34	34
Plymouth	42	10	4	7	29	26	2	3	16	28	56	31
Ipswich	42	10	3	8	37	28	1	3	17	20	64	28
Derby	42	6	6	9	39	34	1	3	17	14	48	23

DIVISION THREE NORTH

Barnsley 65, Accington 61, Scunthorpe U 58, York C 58, Hartlepools U 55, Chesterfield 54, Gateshead 52, Workington 50, Stockport Co 48, Oldham 48, Southport 48, Rochdale 48, Mansfield T 45, Halifax T 43, Darlington 42, Bradford 41, Barrow 40, Wrexham 38, Tranmere R 37, Carlisle U 36, Bradford C 36, Crewe A 34, Grimsby T 34, Chester 33.

DIVISION THREE SOUTH

Bristol C 70, Leyton O 61, Southampton 59, Gillingham 55, Millwall 51, Brighton & HA 50, Watford 50, Torquay U 48, Coventry C 47, Southend U 46, Brentford 46, Norwich C 46, Northampton T 46, Aldershot 45, QPR 44, Shrewsbury T 42, Bournemouth 42, Reading 41, Newport Co 38, Crystal P 38, Swindon T 37, Exeter C 37, Walsall 34, Colchester U 31.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Yeovil Town 55, Weymouth 55, Hastings United 51, Cheltenham Town 50, Guildford City 48, Worcester City 48, Barry Town 47, Gloucester City 45, Bath City 45, Headington United 43, Kidderminster Harriers 43, Merthyr Tydfil 42, Exeter City (Res.) 42, Levells Athletic 41, Kettering Town 41, Hereford United 39, Llanelly 39, Bedford Town 35, Tonbridge 30, Darford 30, Chelmsford City 28, Gravesend & Northfleet 27.

SCOTLAND

DIVISION A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	30	24	1	5	73	26	49
Celtic	30	19	8	3	76	37	46
Rangers	30	19	3	8	67	33	41
Hearts	30	16	7	7	74	45	39
Hibernian	30	15	4	11	64	54	34
St Mirren	30	12	8	10	55	54	32
Clyde	30	11	9	10	59	50	31
Dundee	30	13	4	13	48	48	30
Partick	30	11	7	12	49	61	29
Kilmarnock	30	10	6	14	46	58	26
East Fife	30	9	6	15	51	62	24
Falkirk	30	8	8	14	42	54	24
Queen/South	30	9	6	15	38	56	24
Raith R	30	10	3	17	49	57	23
Motherwell	30	9	4	17	42	62	22
Stirling A	30	2	2	26	29	105	6

DIVISION B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Airdrie	30	18	40	2	103	61	46
Dunfermline	30	19	4	7	72	40	42
Hamilton	30	17	5	8	74	51	39
Queen's Park	30	15	5	10	65	36	35
T Lanark	30	13	7	10	63	49	33
Stenhousemuir	30	12	8	10	70	51	32
St Johnstone	30	15	2	13	60	51	32
Ayr	30	14	4	12	61	73	32
Morton	30	12	5	13	58	69	29
Forfar	30	11	6	13	63	80	28
Albion R	30	8	10	12	50	69	26
Arbroath	30	8	8	14	55	72	24
Dundee	30	8	6	16	55	70	22
Cowdenbeath	30	8	5	17	55	72	21
Alloa	30	7	6	17	51	75	20
Brechin	30	8	3	19	53	89	19

UK STORIES

By Micky Brock

LUCA STEPS IN

Legend tells us that when Ruud Gullit accepted the Chelsea player-manager's job, he walked out on to the pitch, clicked open his mobile phone and personally convinced Gianluca Vialli to choose Stamford Bridge instead of Ibrox Park, Glasgow.

Ruud Gullit

Ruud Gullit's reign as the king of Chelsea came to an abrupt end after a bloodless coup, inspired by rebellious players and backroom staff, helped install Gianluca Vialli as their new player-manager.

The era of the shaking dreadlocks and beaming smile came to an abrupt end for Chelsea just as the rest of the country was gripped by England's first match of the World Cup build-up at Wembley.

Chelsea players reacted with astonishment to the news that Gullit had been replaced by Vialli as player-manager, having trained with the Dutchman as usual in the morning.

Most players were not told by the club and only discovered when telephoned at home by friends and reporters.

VIALLI FACTS

Born: Italy, 9/7/64
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 13.6
Club Honours:
FA Cup 1997
International Honours:
Italy: 59

Twelve months after Ruudi-mania (and dreadlock wigs) hit Stamford Bridge it was the turn of shaven-headed Vialli-mania, when the Juventus player chose to join Ruud Gullit's Chelsea revolution, on a free transfer, in preference to Arsenal and Glasgow Rangers during the 1996 close season.

A national hero in Italy, his exclusion from Arrigo Saachi's Euro 96 squad brought bitter criticism of the beleaguered Italian manager, abut Vialli immediately became a cult-hero with the Chelsea fans.

After scoring his first Premiership goal in his third match — a rasping volley against Coventry City which clinched a 2-0 victory — Luca consistently found the net throughout the first three months of the season, including the winning goal at Manchester United, until sustaining a hamstring strain shortly after heading a superb equaliser against Everton in December.

During Luca's absence, Gullit pushed Gianfranco Zola further forward to play alongside Mark Hughes, and the new pairing played so well together that the clearly disgruntled Italian could not regain his first-team place, sitting out the next seven matches until the dramatic FA Cup fourth round tie against Liverpool, when he surprisingly replaced Mark Hughes.

Two goals down at half-time, Gullit gambled by bringing Hughes off the bench and playing three up front. The Blues responded with a scintillating display of attacking football with Gianluca scoring the two deciding goals.

However, after the euphoria of this famous victory it was back to the bench as Gullit stuck to his 3-5-2 strategy.

An extravagantly gifted player with a wide range of ball skills, flicks and feints, he has a good footballing brain which enables him to lose defenders and create space in the tightest of penalty-box situations. Further, he has endeared himself to Chelsea fans with his sheer enthusiasm, workrate and commitment to the team's cause.

Gianluca Vialli

ENGLAND

TRANSFER DETAILS

Player	From	To	Fee
Gary Speed	Everton	Newcastle Utd	$11m
John Beresford	Newcastle Utd	Soton	$3m
Dele Adebola	Crewe Alexandra	Birmingham	$2m
Rory Delap	Carlisle Utd	Derby Cty	$1m
Nigel Jemson	Oxford Utd	Bury	$220,000
Alex Smith	Swindon	Huddersfield	Free
Jehad Muntasser	Arsenal	Bristol C	Undisclosed
Michael Thomas	Liverpool	Middlesbrough	Loan
Anthony Williams	Blackburn	QPR	Loan
Laurens Ten Heuval	Barnsley	Northampton	Loan
Craig Smith	Derby Cty	Rushden	Loan
Steven Basham	Soton	Wrexham	Loan
Paul Connor	Middlesbrough	Hartlepool Utd	Loan
Mark Dempsey	Dover	Shrewsbury T	Loan
William Turley	Northampton	Leyton O	Loan
Mark Walton	Fulham	Gillingham	Loan
Julian Watts	Leicester	Huddersfield	Loan

In coming on for the final two minutes, the Italian got his wish of participating in the FA Cup Final, a 2-0 win over Middlesbrough earning him a winner's medal.

FERGIE LEFT WINCING

Not for the first time, Alex Ferguson will have fidgeted in frustration at the sight of another 'untouchable' proving he is worth his weight in gold.

He is now wondering just what service a player like Salas would have provided at Old Trafford after watching him score twice against England at Wembley.

His first strike on the night had some reporters claiming it was 'the greatest goal ever' and proudly proclaiming it was also the night when 'Genius' returned to the world's most famous football stadium.

Alex Ferguson

ROBBO SNAPS UP RICARD

Bryan Robson has agreed to pay $4.5 million for Colombia international striker Hamilton Ricard.

With his track record of South American signings, it goes to show just what a brave fellow Robbo really is — they've never really done the business for him in the past.

SPEND, SPEND, SPEND TOFFEES

Everton manager Howard Kendall has been told he can spend the $20 million he received for Andy Hinchcliffe and Gary Speed.

No doubt some will hold their head in their hands as they ponder what wastage will ensue if Kendall gets it wrong.

SOLBAKKEN BACK HOME

Wimbledon have sent Staale Solbakken back to Norway three months after his $500,000 move from Lillestrom.

The midfielder, who stormed out of Selhurst Park after being named as substitute for the game against Crystal Palace, is set for a $600,000 transfer to FC Molde.

Bryan Robson

LEAGUE DUTY FOR PREMIER REFS

Nigel Spackman has called for Premiership officials to be ordered into Nationwide League duty to improve refereeing standards outside the top flight.

SNIPPETS

Sunderland goalkeeper Tony Coton fears his playing career may be over.

Chelsea legend Alan Hudson is impressing doctors with his battling recovery after a road accident.

Roy Keane's FA Cup dream has been dashed again after he broke his wrist while playing for Republic of Ireland B on Wednesday.

Scottish international Scot Gemmill may seek a move from First Division promotion chasers Nottingham Forest this summer.

Glenn Hoddle has put part of the blame for England's insipid performance against Chile on the three-month gap since the last friendly, against Cameroon, in November. "There you are," said Glenn Hoddle. "USA 1, Brazil 0 — that says it all."

Well, it certainly had something to say about how many of the 1998 World Cup finalists are losing matches along the way to France.

PREMIER CLUBS TO BREAK

The new Scottish Premiership was finally given the seal of approval at Hampden Park after five months of legal battles and bitter wrangling.

SEARCH BEGINS

The search to appoint a new manager at Motherwell, in the wake of Alex McLeish's departure, will not officially begin until this week.

BOOTH'S EAR-BASHING

It was comforting for Scott Booth to feel welcome at his new club.

Perhaps more unsettling, however, was the amusing fatal attraction scene he found himself in over the Utrecht airwaves.

LAUDRUP UNCERTAINTY

The shock waves reverberating from Ruud Gullit's departure from Chelsea have rippled north to Glasgow, with Brian Laudrup caught in the fall out of the Dutchman's sacking at Stamford Bridge.

Laudrup's future playing career has been left hanging in the balance in the wake of Chelsea's decision to cut ties with Gullit, when agreement couldn't be reached on their now erstwhile player manager's new contract.

Lengthy negotiations between the Rangers player's agent Vincenzo Morabito and the London club's Managing Director, Colin Hutchinson resulted in an offer which Sportsmail understands Laudrup had decided to accept.

It is a situation which has now potentially changed as a result of the appointment of Gianluca Vialli to the position of player-manager.

The new coach now takes stock of his squad before deciding how to proceed in building a team of his own, hopefully one that can actually win the Premiership for the mega-spending side from Stamford Bridge.

The Danish international now faces further uncertainty and will now have to await developments before making known his preference for where he will play his football next season.

As a result, Gullit's loss of a job could yet be Rangers' gain, athough not because the former European Cup winner is planning to take over from Walter Smith as manager.

Though the possibility remains slight, events in London may influence the thinking of the man who has been the most influential player at Ibrox in the past four seasons. So, will he or won't he go?

While admitting that he has been made an offer of a re-contract agreement with Chelsea, Laudrup remained tight lipped as to the effect Gullit's sacking might have on his future.

He said: "It doesn't affect my personal situation. I've only said that I have an offer from Chelsea and these events don't change anything in the way I think about the club. I've seen what has happened but these things happen in football."

Absolutely right Brian, just ask Ruud Gullit.

Around the Globe

BELGIUM

Germinal Ekeren	2	Mouscron	2
Club Bruges	3	Antwerp	2
Aalst	1	Genk	1
Harelbeke	3	Ghent	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bruges	22	19	3	0	56	17	60
Genk	22	13	4	5	47	29	43
Ekeren	22	12	5	5	40	27	41
Harelbeke	22	10	9	3	40	22	39
Anderlecht	22	10	5	7	32	25	35
Lokeren	22	11	0	11	43	46	33
Lommel	22	9	5	8	35	31	32
Lierse	22	8	6	8	34	31	30
Ghent	22	7	8	7	33	32	29
St-Truiden	22	7	8	7	23	24	29
Aalst	22	7	6	9	34	35	27
Charleroi	22	7	5	10	31	41	26
Westerlo	22	6	8	8	32	37	26
Standard	22	6	7	9	29	32	25
Mouscron	22	5	6	11	22	34	21
Molenbeek	22	5	4	13	26	54	19
Beveren	22	3	7	12	20	38	16
Antwerp	22	3	4	15	25	46	13

ENGLAND FA CUP

Arsenal	0	Crystal Palace	0
Man Utd	1	Barnsley	1
Sheringham 42		Hendrie 38	

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

Arsenal or Crystal Palace v West Ham
United or Blackburn Rovers
Coventry City v Sheffield United
Leeds United v Wimbledon or Wolves
Newcastle Utd v Man Utd or Barnsley

GERMANY

Schalke 04	1	Wolfsburg	1
Stuttgart	0	Kaiserslautern	1
1860 Munich	3	Leverkusen	4
Hansa Rostock	2	Bielefeld	1
Hertha Berlin	2	B Munich	1
VfL Bochum	3	B M'gladbach	1
Karlsruhe	0	B Dortmund	0
Werder Bremen	2	Duisburg	2
Cologne	1	Hamburg SV	2

HOLLAND

PSV Eindhoven failed to close the gap on Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam as the two sides drew 1-1 in a hard-fought game that saw two PSV players sent-off in the dying minutes.

A spectacular goal by midfielder Ronald de Boer, from just inside the PSV half, gave Ajax the lead after 24 minutes but PSV deservedly equalised through Boudewijn Zenden just after the hour.

The highlight of the match was De Boer's amazing goal. He found an empty PSV net with a long-range effort after goalkeeper Ronald Wattereus had charged out of his area to close down striker Shota Avreladze.

In the closing minutes tempers flared as PSV midfielder Wim Jonk was given a red card for bringing down Michael Laudrup outside PSV's penalty box, and Ernest Faber followed for a second bookable offence shortly after.

PSV remain 12 points adrift of Ajax with 12 games to play. PSV won the reverse tie 4-3 at Ajax in December.

Enschede	0	Feyenoord	0
Utrecht	4	Volendam	1
Sparta	2	Heerenveen	4
Eindhoven	1	Ajax	1
Breda	2	Maastricht	0
Roda	1	Waalwijk	2
Nijmegen	0	Groningen	2
Graafschap	3	Vitesse	3
Fortuna	2	Willem II	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	22	19	2	1	68	10	59
Eindhoven	22	13	8	1	63	27	47
Heerenveen	21	12	5	4	37	25	41
Vitesse	22	11	6	5	52	37	39
Feyenoord	22	11	6	5	38	27	39
Willem II	22	10	3	9	37	33	33
Fortuna	22	10	3	9	31	38	33
Breda	22	8	4	10	26	27	28
Utrecht	21	8	3	10	41	47	27
Sparta	22	7	6	9	40	41	27
Twente	21	6	8	7	23	24	26
Roda	22	7	5	10	32	30	26
Nijmegen	22	8	1	13	24	43	25
Graafschap	22	5	7	10	28	27	22
Groningen	22	5	7	10	28	38	22
Maastricht	22	6	3	13	20	49	21
Waalwijk	21	4	6	11	26	46	18
Volendam	22	2	5	14	15	60	11

ITALY

Roma	2	Bologna	1
Piacenza	0	Brescia	0
Empoli	1	Fiorentina	1
Bari	0	Lazio	2
Inter	5	Lecce	0
Vicenza	1	Milan	4
Atalanta	1	Napoli	0
Udinese	1	Parma	1
Juventus	3	Sampdoria	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	20	14	5	2	44	15	47
Inter	20	13	4	3	38	16	43
Udinese	20	11	5	4	40	27	38
Lazio	20	11	5	4	34	16	38
Fiorentina	20	9	7	4	39	21	34
Parma	20	9	7	4	33	20	34
Roma	20	8	8	4	34	24	32
Sampdoria	20	8	7	5	37	35	31
Milan	20	8	6	6	26	21	30
Viacenza	20	6	5	9	22	39	23
Bari	20	6	4	10	15	27	22
Brescia	20	6	3	11	25	31	21
Bologna	20	4	8	8	25	29	20
Empoli	20	5	5	10	31	35	20
Piacenza	20	3	10	7	15	23	19
Atalanta	20	4	7	9	17	29	19
Lecce	20	3	2	15	13	47	11
Napoli	20	1	4	15	13	48	7

PORTUGAL

Belenenses	0	Estrela	2
Varzim	3	C'maiorense	0
Maritimo	1	Setubal	0
Salgueiros	0	Academica	1
Chaves	2	Farense	2
Porto	3	Leca	1
Benfica	2	Rio Ave	1
Guimaraes	1	Braga	0
Boavista	1	S Lisbon	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	21	15	4	2	47	22	49
Benfica	21	11	6	4	32	19	39
Guimaraes	21	11	4	6	26	14	37
Rio Ave	21	9	6	6	28	24	33
Sporting	21	8	8	5	24	17	32
Maritimo	21	9	4	8	24	22	31
Estrela	21	8	7	6	26	25	31
Boavista	21	7	9	5	26	19	30
Salgueiros	21	8	6	7	29	24	30
Leca	21	8	4	9	22	25	28
Braga	21	6	9	6	30	27	27
Camp'rense	21	7	5	9	29	35	26
Farense	21	5	10	6	27	29	25
Setubal	21	5	6	10	21	26	21
Academica	21	5	7	9	17	27	22
Varzim	21	5	7	9	19	31	22
Chaves	21	4	3	14	18	38	15
Belenenses	21	2	7	12	12	33	13

SPAIN

Barcelona	0	Mallorca	0
Celta Vigo	2	Real Sociedad	1
Compostela	1	Espanyol	1
Merida	2	Atl Madrid	1
Oviedo	2	Salamanca	0
Real Madrid	3	Gijon	0
Racing Santander	2	Tenerife	1
Real Zaragoza	3	Real Betis	1
Valladolid	1	D Coruna	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Madrid	25	13	8	4	43	25	47
Barcelona	24	14	4	6	50	35	46
R Sociedad	25	12	9	5	39	22	43
A Madrid	25	11	8	5	52	32	41
Celta Vigo	25	12	5	8	35	29	41
A Bilbao	24	10	10	4	32	25	40
Mallorca	25	10	10	6	36	21	39
Real Betis	23	10	7	6	31	26	37
Espanyol	25	8	11	6	29	18	35
Zaragoza	25	9	8	8	35	41	35
Oviedo	25	7	11	7	26	30	32
Valencia	24	9	4	11	34	32	31
Deportivo	25	6	12	7	26	27	30
Racing	25	8	6	11	28	35	30

Direct from Greece

102 League & Cup Games

Catch all the action from the Greek First Division & the cheers and tears from the Cup on

ANT 1

(Optus Vision)

OPTUS VISION

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUBSCRIPTIONS CONTACT OPTUS ON 13 33 11

WORLD STOP PRESS

USA V REST OF WORLD

Borrowing an idea from the National Hockey League, Major League Soccer announced that its All-Star Game will feature a team from the United States against a side from the rest of the world.

(Funnily enough, the rest of the globe thought the NHL had borrowed the idea from the true football! Ed).

The MLS's third annual All-Star Game will take place at the Florida Citrus Bowl on Aug 2, 1998. The league will also announce, in the near future, plans for an international game that will be the first game of a double-header.

The NHL All-Star Game last month featured a team from North America against the rest of the world.

The Eastern Conference battled the Western Conference in the first two MLS All-Star Games, which took place at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

"Soccer is the world's game," MLS commissioner Doug Logan said. "And the new format will not only welcome back our players competing in the World Cup, but it will provide fans with a very competitive match."

The 1998 game will also mark the first time that the fans will vote on the starters. (Now that is a good idea. Ed.).

KLUIVERT IN PLANS

Struggling AC Milan forward Patrick Kluivert has been picked for the Netherlands team that will play against the United States in an exhibition game next week at Miami.

Kluivert recently learned he will not be charged with rape following allegations made by a woman last year. Prosecutors said there was insufficient evidence.

The Netherlands plays the United States at Pro Player Stadium on Feb 21 and Mexico at the same venue Feb 24.

FC Utrecht forward Michael Mols was recalled to the Dutch national team (his only international appearance was in an exhibition game against France in January 1995). Most probably he will be a replacement for Arsenal forward Dennis Bergkamp, who hates plane travel.

The Dutch squad:

Goalkeepers: Edwin van der Sar (Ajax), Ed de Goey (Chelsea, England)

Dennis Bergkamp

Defenders: Frank de Boer (Ajax Amsterdam), Winston Bogarde (Barcelona, Spain), Ernest Faber (PSV Eindhoven), Jaap Stam (PSV Eindhoven), Arthur Numan (PSV Eindhoven), Michael Reiziger (Barcelona, Spain)

Midfielders: Ronald de Boer (Ajax Amsterdam), Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Feyernoord Rotterdam), Philip Cocu (PSV Eindhoven), Wim Jonk (PSV Eindhoven), Aaron Winter (Internazionale, Italy), Clarence Seedorf (Real Madrid, Spain)

Forwards: Patrick Kluivert (AC Milan,), Michael Mols (FC Utrecht), Marc Overmars (Arsenal, England), Boudewijn Zenden (PSV Eindhoven), Pierre van Hooijdonk (Notts Forest, England).

PELE'S LAW

Pele has picked up many titles over the years: soccer's greatest player, Brazil's minister of sport, goodwill ambassador. Well, add one more... emancipator.

The Senate's approval of a bill bearing Pele's name has moved Brazilian soccer to the edge of a revolution — the abolition of the reserve clause that binds players to clubs.

'Pele's Law' is now on the desk of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, awaiting his signature. It eventually would make all players free agents.

For Pele, the law represents "the liberation of athletes from slavery.

"Now we are on the road to the First World," Pele said after the Senate's vote. "Without a doubt, it was the most important goal of my life."

Within three years, players not under contract will become free agents. Junior players with clubs must be signed to a professional contract when they reach 18, and the first contract can't be longer than two years.

Clubs say the end of the reserve clause will discourage investment in youth divisions. Athletes despised the clause, which

Pele

denied them free agency until they had been with a club for 10 years and reached age 32.

The law requires clubs — now considered non-profit social associations — to become businesses, subject to commercial laws and taxes. Directors must file financial statements and can be removed or punished for incompetence or malfeasance.

Pele says the change will make pro-soccer truly professional and create jobs and revenue. He says sport accounts for just 0.1 % of Brazil's gross domestic product (GDP), compared with 4 % in nations where sports are professionalised.

"If we can reach just 2% of GDP, we will generate one million jobs," Pele was quoted as saying. "Our goal is to attain this in five years."

Just getting the law though Congress has taken Pele most of his three years as Brazil's special minister of sports. He personally lobbied legislators to avoid amendments that would have diluted the bill.

"What I learned about political negotiation in these past months is enough to write a book," he said.

Pele didn't spare opponents, including FIFA president Joao Havelange and Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation and Havelange's son-in-law.

"They wanted to perpetuate themselves in power," Pele said. "They didn't have the vision to see that that era had passed."

JOHANSSON LOOKING GOOD

UEFA President Lennart Johansson's bid to succeed Brazilian Joao Havelange as FIFA president received a real boost after the African Football Confederation said that they would be supporting him in the June 8 election.

On paper 68-year-old Johansson, who is presently the only candidate despite hints that FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter might run, would pick up 51 votes from the separate African Federations and 50 from the European federations, who have all backed the Swede, apart from Denmark, who abstained in a letter sent last September declaring their support for him.

Obviously in the privacy of the voting booth, different federations could change their mind but at present there just remains the South American federation (10 votes) Oceania (12 votes), CONCACAF (33 votes) and (AFC) Asian Football Confederation (43 votes, which could increase to 44 if Bhutan is given full membership in May) to declare, though the latter has indicated they may well support Johansson.

Sultan Ahmad Shah, President of the AFC, gave the burly Swede, who was instrumental in bringing English clubs back into European competition following the Heysel tragedy and handing England the right to host Euro '96, his personal support as he wrote in Johansson's manifesto that he was the right man to succeed Havelange.

However, AFC General Secretary Peter Velapan was more measured in how the federation would vote when he spoke from Kuala Lumpur following the announcement of CAF's support for Johansson.

Velappan, who had said that if either Blatter, or Johansson were elected he had been promised the general-secretaryship of FIFA (an allegation that was firmly denied by the Swede's supporters), said that the AFC would wait until April 7, the deadline date that nominations for the FIFA post must be delivered before declaring their favoured candidate.

Speaking from Kuala Lumpur, Velappan added that the AFC executive committee was likely to confirm its recommendation at its May 14 congress.

"We are also waiting to see if there will be more than one candidate for the post. At the moment, only Lennart Johansson has declared his candidacy and we prefer to wait," he said in a statement.

Johansson, who recovered well after making some ill-advised black jokes last year, won support from the Africans mainly for his policy of supporting a rotational system for who hosts the World Cup finals.

"After long deliberations over who CAF should support for the FIFA Presidency on June 8 in Paris we decided unanimously that Africa would not present a candidate and we would support Lennart Johansson's candidacy," a CAF spokesman said.

Velappan and the AFC are also for the World Cup being rotated among the continents, as agreed by all confederations last year.

"It is pointless agreeing on the rotation in 1997 and then argue for implementation after the 2006 World Cup. With Asia staging the World Cup in 2002, it should be rightly Africa's turn in 2006," he said.

"Europe in any case, has staged the World Cup a number of times and should be flexible on this matter," he added.

Joao Havelange, who will end his 24 year tenure in June, and who launched a bitter attack on Johansson this week, had tried to encourage Issa Hayatou, President of CAF and a vice-president of FIFA, to run when he said that Hayatou, 51, had all the qualities that was required to be his successor — exactly the same words he used about Blatter last month.

Blatter, who refused to reply to an ultimatum from UEFA to announce whether he would stand by the end of January, has until April 7 to declare his candidacy, although for him to stand he requires a national federation to sponsor him.

KANU ... FINALLY

Nwankwo Kanu, the Nigerian whose promising career was threatened by congenital heart disease, made his Italian League debut for Internazionale of Milan.

The 21-year-old forward entered with five minutes left in Inter's 1-1 tie at Fiorentina. Kanu underwent surgery for a deformed aortic heart valve at the Cleveland Clinic in November 1996, three months after leading Nigeria to the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

A full return is considered a key to Nigeria's hopes at this summer's World Cup.

His comeback was hampered by a series of leg injuries, Kanu appeared sparingly in exhibition matches and three Italian Cup games, but Inter had held him out of the tougher league action.

HIBS NAME McLEISH

Scottish Premier Division strugglers Hibernian named Motherwell boss, and former Aberdeen centre-half, Alex McLeish as their new manager.

Hibs, who are bottom of the division after managing just four wins from 23 games, sacked Jim Duffy on February 2.

AUSTRALIA OFFER VENABLES?

SA (Soccer Australia), desperate to find a way to keep Terry Venables, is mulling over a number of positions to offer the high-profile former England team manager.

Australia were knocked out of the World Cup on away-goals by Iran last November and Venables still has about four months to serve on a contract with Australia's national team. SA wants him for another four years.

He is expected to return to England this week and SA wants to make him an offer before his departure.

Venables said he had not yet received an offer to extend his contract.

"I've got nothing to give an answer about," he said when asked about an official approach. "We'll wait until I am (given an offer)."

SA commissioner George Negus said his association was trying to put together a package that would ensure Venables was used to his full potential.

"I know everybody wants it settled sooner rather than later, but it's a genuinely difficult situation, what we are looking at is the efficient and effective use of the person we appoint, whoever that might be," Negus said.

"I don't think anybody is kidding themselves, it's not going to be easy."

It is understood options being considered are director of coaching, football director, Sydney 2000 Olympic coach and coaching adviser.

SA chairman David Hill has been talking with Venables and said he was still keen to retain him.

Hill said the major difficulty was organising a quality fixture list of internationals immediately after the World Cup finals in France in June-July, as there was little opposition for the Socceroos in the Oceania region.

Venables said he understood SA's problems but added, "I came here (to the current series) thinking we'd discuss it and see where we go but at the moment they (SA) can't really come to the table with anything," Venables said.

"We both came to the table saying we'd be happy, if all things were correct, to continue.

"If I wasn't wanting to continue, there wouldn't even be a discussion. I would see my contract through and say 'that's it' but we're trying to do something and whether that happens or not, I don't know."

Clouding the issue is that Venables has been linked with a return to club coaching later this year with Scotland's Glasgow Rangers and English premier league sides Everton and Crystal Palace.

With the latest news of the dramatic departure of Ruud Gullit from Chelsea, one of Venables' old clubs, perhaps an offer from west London could be in the offing?

SALAS 2 ENGLAND 0

Marcelo Salas showed just why Lazio have paid $24 million for his signature with two superbly taken goals as Chile beat an experimental England team 2 0 in a World Cup warm-up.

The 23-year-old 1997 South American 'Player of the Year' put his side ahead after 44 minutes with one of the best goals ever scored under Wembley's famous Twin Towers.

Salas, who flew to Rome to complete his transfer from River Plate after the game, struck with stunning skill and finishing power.

Outpacing defender David Batty on the edge of the penalty area, he controlled a soaring 40-metre pass on his left thigh from Jose Sierra and completing the movement without breaking stride, volleyed the ball wide of diving English goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

He wrapped up their deserved success with a perfectly taken penalty 11 minutes from time when he sent Martyn the wrong way.

Salas himself had bamboozled England defender Sol Campbell into fouling him, and his goals fulfilled a personal dream.

"I had always wanted to play at Wembley, and to score is just a dream come true," he said.

England coach Glenn Hoddle said: "On the night Chile deserved it, they were the better side, they passed the ball better.

"We had a bit of an experimental side out and we have been brought down to earth. From the first whistle I felt we weren't on our toes. But it's not a disaster, I might look back and think this result has done us a lot of good."

It was Chile's first ever win in five meetings against England dating back to 1950, and wrapped up their short world tour on a high note after a win over Australia in Melbourne the previous weekend.

The Chileans, who face Italy, Cameroon and Austria in the first round in the World Cup finals, showed no sign of jet-lag or lethargy after flying half-way round the world for the match.

Instead, with Sierra and Rodrigo Barrera at the heart of all their moves and dictating the pace of the match in midfield, they looked sharp, incisive and far more cohesive than England, who gave debuts to strikers Dion Dublin and Michael Owen.

Owen, aged just 18 years and 59 days, became England's youngest player this century and had a highly promising debut, twice going close to scoring.

England, who despite the experiments had too many players below their best, welcomed back striker Alan Shearer for his first international after his long injury lay-off, but he did not contribute greatly to their cause.

The nearest England came to a goal was when Graeme Le Saux shot at goalkeeper Nelson Tapia after 61 minutes and, six minutes later, Paul Ince headed straight at the Chilean keeper from close range.

MEDIA PRESS PTY LTD
7 GARNERS AVENUE, NSW 2004 • Ph: (02) 9562 0500 • Fax (02) 9550 9332
* NEWSPAPERS — MAGAZINES BOOKLETS — INSERTS — TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
* WEBB OFFSET PRINTERS
* GENERAL COMMERCIAL and COLOUR PRINTERS
* TYPESETTING — TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE
* SADDLE STITCHING
* PERFECT BINDING
* DISTRIBUTION — CIRCULATION AVAILABLE
(02) 9562 0500

SAMBA SOCCER

BRAZILIAN STYLE